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United States  
Department of  
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Evaluation

# Characteristics of Food Stamp Households

Summer 1991

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# **CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS**

**SUMMER 1991**

**Office of Analysis and Evaluation  
Food and Nutrition Service  
United States Department of Agriculture**



This report was prepared by Nancy Heiser and Suzanne Smolkin of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation. Many individuals made important contributions to the report. The authors thank Harold Beebout for providing guidance and reviewing the report; Daryl Hall for editing the report; and Deborah Patterson for preparing the manuscript. The authors also thank Jenny Genser of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service for providing guidance and program information.

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## CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	ix
1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2 AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM .....	3
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS .....	3
The Household .....	3
Income Eligibility Standards .....	3
Assets .....	5
Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards .....	5
APPLICATION PROCEDURES .....	6
BENEFIT COMPUTATION .....	6
FOOD STAMP ISSUANCE .....	7
PROGRAM CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR .....	7
FSP PARTICIPATION AND COSTS .....	8
3 CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS AND PARTICIPANTS .....	13
THE POVERTY STATUS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS .....	13
HOUSEHOLDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS .....	15
Children .....	15
Elderly Persons .....	19
Disabled Persons .....	19
Other Households Served by the FSP .....	20
CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP PARTICIPANTS .....	20
CHANGES IN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS .....	21
4 CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS BY METROPOLITAN STATUS .....	23
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS .....	23
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS .....	23
POVERTY, INCOME, AND RESOURCES .....	25
FSP DEDUCTIONS .....	26
FSP ASSISTANCE .....	28



## CONTENTS (continued)

	<b>Page</b>
APPENDIX A: DETAILED TABLES OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS .....	31
APPENDIX B: DETAILED TABLES OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS BY METROPOLITAN STATUS .....	97
APPENDIX C: POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR 1991 .....	117
APPENDIX D: MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS AND NET MONTHLY FOOD STAMP INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS IN SUMMER 1991 .....	121
APPENDIX E: VALUE OF STANDARD AND MAXIMUM DEPENDENT-CARE AND EXCESS SHELTER EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING AREAS IN SUMMER 1991 .....	125
APPENDIX F: VALUE OF MAXIMUM BENEFIT IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING AREAS IN SUMMER 1991 .....	129
APPENDIX G: SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES .....	133
APPENDIX H: SAMPLING ERROR OF ESTIMATES .....	141
APPENDIX I: DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT .....	157
APPENDIX J: PREVIOUS REPORTS IN THIS SERIES .....	163



## TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 Major economic indicators, calendar years 1982-1991 .....	10
3.1 Distribution of households and benefits by the poverty line, summer 1991 .....	14
3.2 Effect of food stamp benefits on the poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1991 .....	16
3.3 Household composition and selected characteristics of participating households, summer 1991 .....	17
3.4 Average values of selected characteristics by household composition, summer 1991 .....	18
3.5 Average nominal and real values of selected characteristics, summer 1990 and summer 1991 .....	22
4.1 Distribution of participating households by metropolitan status, 1991 .....	24
4.2 Distribution of participating households by household composition and metropolitan status, 1991 .....	24
4.3 Distribution of participating households by gross income as a percentage of poverty and metropolitan status, 1991 .....	27
4.4 Distribution of participating households by income sources and metropolitan status, 1991 .....	27
4.5 Distribution of participating households by the value of the shelter deduction and by metropolitan status .....	29
4.6 Distribution of participating households by benefit as a percentage of maximum benefit and metropolitan status .....	29

## FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Food Stamp Program participants, unemployed workers, and poor persons, 1982-1991 .....	9

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) provides millions of Americans with the means to purchase food for a nutritious diet. The FSP is the largest of the 13 domestic nutrition assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In an average month in fiscal year 1991, the FSP served approximately 22.6 million persons. This report presents the characteristics of FSP households nationwide in summer (July and August) 1991 based on FSP household data for those two months collected by FNS for quality control purposes.

### FSP Participation and Costs

In summer 1991, the FSP provided benefits to an average of 23.4 million persons living in 9 million households across the United States. The total cost for the program over fiscal year 1991 was \$18.8 billion, \$17.3 billion of which were for FSP benefits. The average monthly food stamp benefit per household in summer 1991 was \$162. Compared with summer 1990, the level of FSP participation increased 15 percent, and FSP costs increased approximately 21 percent.<sup>1</sup>

### Characteristics of FSP Households and Participants

In summer 1991, slightly over half of all FSP participants were children, 41 percent were nonelderly adults, and 7 percent were elderly persons. Most of the children were school-age, and most of the adults were women.

Almost all (91 percent) of the FSP households lived below the official Federal Government poverty line. FSP benefits were concentrated among poorer households--while the gross income of 42 percent of all households was less than or equal to half of the poverty line, they received 58 percent of all benefits. If the value of food stamps is included as income, 7 percent of all FSP households moved above the poverty line as a result of receiving food stamps, and 27 percent moved from below to above half of the poverty line.

Of all FSP households, 82 percent contained either a child or an elderly or disabled person, and these households received 88 percent of all benefits. Households with children received a relatively large average monthly food stamp benefit (\$216), reflecting their relatively large average household size (3.5 persons). Most of the FSP households with children were single-parent households that also received support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). About one-quarter of FSP households received earned income; 19 percent of single-parent households and 45 percent of multiple adult households with children had earnings.

Almost three-quarters of food stamp households with an elderly member consisted of an elderly person living alone. These individuals received an average benefit of \$40. The average food stamp benefit for all households containing an elderly person was \$62, reflecting their smaller-than-average household size.

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<sup>1</sup>FSP participation and costs have continued to grow significantly since 1991. In September 1992, 26.4 million persons received food stamps.



## **Characteristics of FSP Households and Participants by Metropolitan Status**

The characteristics of FSP individuals and households varied considerably by metropolitan status in 1991. In an average month, nearly three-quarters of all FSP households were located in urban areas. The distribution of FSP households by metropolitan status differed by region and State. Thirty-seven percent of FSP households in the South lived in rural areas compared with 9 percent in the Northeast, 24 percent in the Midwest and 20 percent in the West.

The composition of urban households differed from that of rural households in several ways. Urban FSP households were more likely to contain children than were rural FSP households. Furthermore, of the urban households that had children, a large majority (71 percent) were single-parent households compared with only slightly more than half of all rural FSP households with children that had only one parent. Urban households were also somewhat more likely to contain a single, non-elderly person without children. On the other hand, urban FSP households were less likely to contain elderly or disabled persons. Individual participants in the FSP also differed by metropolitan status. The majority of rural participants in 1991 were white (61 percent) while the majority of urban participants were black or hispanic (57 percent). In addition, urban participants were younger than rural participants.

On average, FSP households in urban areas had considerably lower gross (\$458) and net (\$244) monthly incomes and assets (\$60) than did rural households which had average gross and net incomes of \$482 and \$281, respectively, and assets averaging \$130. Similarly, a slightly higher percentage of FSP households in urban areas had incomes below 100 percent of the poverty line. The sources of income for FSP households in urban areas also differed from those of rural households. Only 17 percent of urban households received earned income compared with 28 percent of rural households. Compared with rural FSP households, urban FSP households were more likely to receive AFDC or General Assistance (GA) and were less likely to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security, reflecting key differences in household composition.

Differences in the characteristics of urban and rural households affected the amount of various deductions to which they were entitled. Only 17 percent of urban households were entitled to an earned income deduction compared with 28 percent of rural FSP households, reflecting the higher percentage of rural households with earnings. Urban households had, on average, higher shelter costs than rural households (\$271 versus \$216). This, coupled with lower average gross incomes for urban households, resulted in urban households being entitled to higher excess shelter deductions than rural households.

On average urban FSP households received slightly higher monthly benefits (\$162 and \$160, respectively) than rural FSP households and a slightly lower percentage of urban households received the minimum benefit.



## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is a central component of America's overall system of providing assistance to low-income households. The major purpose of the FSP is "to permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet . . . by increasing their purchasing power" (The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, P.L. 95-113). The FSP is the largest of the 13 different domestic nutrition assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). During fiscal year 1991, the FSP served approximately 22.6 million persons in an average month at a total annual cost of \$18.8 billion.

The FSP is the only low-income assistance program that is made available nationwide to essentially all financially needy households without imposing nonfinancial categorical criteria, such as whether households contain children or elderly persons. The FSP is also unique in that it provides benefits in the form of coupons. Food stamp coupons can be redeemed for food in any of over 200,000 authorized stores across the nation.

The Federal Government and State and local governments share the costs and administration of the FSP. The U.S. Congress authorizes the FSP and appropriates necessary funds, while the U.S. Department of Agriculture establishes FSP regulations pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 as amended. FNS administers the FSP nationally, while State and local welfare agencies operate the program locally. The Federal Government fully funds the benefits of the FSP. Administrative costs are shared by the cooperating agencies, with FNS usually paying 50 percent of the costs.

Since food stamps are available to all persons who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress, the FSP serves a broad spectrum of needy persons. Using FSP household data, which FNS periodically collects for quality control review purposes, FNS produces a series of reports (appendix J) that present FSP household characteristics to enhance our understanding of those served by the program. This report, the latest in this series, presents a picture of households and individuals participating in the FSP in summer 1991.

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the FSP and the regulations used to determine eligibility and food stamp benefits, as well as the factors that affect program participation and costs, such as legislative changes and trends in the national economy. Chapter 3 describes the characteristics of individuals and households participating in the FSP in summer 1991. Chapter 4 looks at the characteristics of individuals and households participating in the FSP by metropolitan status in fiscal year 1991. The appendixes include supplemental tables, detailed tabulations of household characteristics, and a brief description of the sample design and the sampling error associated with the estimates.



## **CHAPTER 2: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**

The characteristics of FSP households and the level of FSP participation change over time in response to economic and demographic trends and to legislative changes in eligibility requirements. This chapter begins by explaining FSP eligibility requirements, application procedures, benefit computation, and food stamp issuance. It goes on to discuss how the program changed from summer (July and August) 1990 to summer 1991 and concludes with a summary of program participation and costs and their relationship to the economy in fiscal year 1991.

### **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, establishes uniform national eligibility standards for the FSP and defines the basic FSP unit, the "household." The eligibility criteria include gross and net income limits, an asset limit, and various nonfinancial criteria. Some exceptions to these uniform standards exist for certain high-cost areas, such as Alaska and Hawaii, and for certain individuals, such as elderly persons (age 60 and over) and disabled persons. Below, we discuss how a household is defined in the FSP and the eligibility criteria for the program.

#### **The Household**

In general, individuals who live in a residential unit and purchase and prepare food together constitute a household as defined in the FSP. The income and assets of each household member are aggregated to determine eligibility and benefits. Individuals who live together in a residential unit but do not purchase and prepare food together can apply as separate household units; thus, their income and assets are considered separately in eligibility and benefit determinations, with some exceptions. Special provisions allow elderly and disabled persons who cannot prepare and purchase food because of a substantial disability to apply as a separate household as long as the gross monthly income of the remainder of their residential unit is less than 165 percent of the official Federal Government poverty guidelines.<sup>1</sup> Groups that are always considered one household regardless of their food purchasing and preparation arrangements include married couples, parents and their minor children, childless individuals living with their nonelderly parents, and childless nonelderly individuals living with their childless nonelderly siblings.

#### **Income Eligibility Standards**

Monthly income is the most important determinant of a household's FSP eligibility. The majority of households that apply for food stamps must meet two income eligibility standards--a gross income standard and a net income standard. As defined in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, gross income includes most cash income (with the exception of specific types of income such as loans) and excludes most noncash income, or in-kind benefits. The specific standards are identified below.

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<sup>1</sup>Federal Government poverty guidelines are established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and are updated annually by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



First, the gross monthly income of all households without an elderly or disabled member must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line (\$1,376 for a family of four in the contiguous United States in fiscal year 1991). Households that contain elderly and disabled members are not subject to the gross income test. Second, households that meet the gross income eligibility standard must then meet a net income eligibility standard, defined as net monthly income at or below 100 percent of the poverty line (\$1,059 for a family of four in the contiguous United States in fiscal year 1991). Net income is determined by subtracting deductions permitted under the FSP from monthly gross income. Both the gross and net income eligibility standards are established for various household sizes (appendixes C and D). Households are exempt from these income tests, as well as the asset test, if all members of a household receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) income, State General Assistance (GA), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The FSP deducts the following from a household's gross monthly income to arrive at the net monthly income:<sup>2</sup>

- **Standard deduction.** All households automatically received a standard deduction equal to \$116 in the contiguous United States and the District of Columbia in fiscal year 1991. The standard deduction for outlying States and Territories varies to reflect price differences between these areas and the contiguous United States (appendix E). The standard deduction amounts are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living.
- **Earned income deduction.** Households with earnings receive an earned income deduction equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- **Dependent-care deduction.** Households with dependents receive a dependent-care deduction for expenses involved in caring for children and other dependents while household members work, seek employment, or go to school. The maximum dependent-care deduction for households with dependents was \$160 per dependent per month in fiscal year 1991.
- **Medical deduction.** A medical deduction is available only to households that contain elderly or disabled members. These households can deduct all medical costs incurred by the elderly or disabled person that exceed \$35. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs are not deductible. If a household contains more than one disabled or elderly person, then it can deduct the combined medical expenses for those disabled or elderly persons that exceed the elderly or disabled person's initial \$35 expense.
- **Excess shelter expense deduction.** All households are entitled to an excess shelter expense deduction equal to shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility

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<sup>2</sup>There is a distinction between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income and dependent-care, shelter, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Because net income cannot be less than zero, households with total deductions greater than their gross incomes could only claim a portion of their deduction entitlement.



bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceed 50 percent of a household's countable income after all other potential deductions are subtracted from gross income. This deduction is subject to a limit except for households that contain elderly or disabled members, which are entitled to subtract the full value of shelter costs that exceed 50 percent of their adjusted income. The limit on the excess shelter expense deduction for households without elderly or disabled members for fiscal year 1991 was \$186 for the contiguous United States and the District of Columbia. The excess shelter expense deduction for outlying States and Territories varies to reflect price differences between these areas and the contiguous United States (appendix E). The deduction limit is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of housing.

## **Assets**

The second most important determinant of FSP eligibility is a household's assets. Most households are permitted up to \$2,000 in countable assets; however, households that contain elderly persons are allowed up to \$3,000. Countable assets include cash, assets that can easily be converted into cash (such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump-sum payments), and nonliquid resources. However, selected pieces of property such as family homes, tools of a trade, or business property used to earn income are not counted. Assets also do not include vehicles used to produce income or to transport elderly or disabled persons. Vehicles not used for these purposes are counted in the following way: for the first vehicle or vehicles used to commute to work, any fair market value exceeding \$4,500 is counted; for all other vehicles, the higher of either any fair market value above \$4,500 or any equity is counted.

## **Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards**

While the FSP does not impose categorical eligibility standards, some specific nonfinancial restrictions are placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and persons who are institutionalized. In addition, able-bodied food stamp participants are required to register for work and accept suitable employment. The following individuals are exempt from this work registration requirement:

- Persons younger than age 16 or older than age 59
- Persons who are physically or mentally disabled
- Caretakers of dependent children younger than age 6 or of incapacitated adults
- Persons who work at least 30 hours per week
- Persons subject to the work requirements of the AFDC program
- Persons who receive unemployment insurance
- Persons ages 16 and 17 who are not household heads or who are attending school
- Persons in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs

- Students enrolled in school at least half-time

Since April 1987, most work registrants have been required to participate in State Employment and Training (E&T) programs, which provide work experience, educational programs, and job search training. Not all work registrants are required to participate in E&T programs, however. For example, States may exempt pregnant women and persons living in areas where E&T programs are not available.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To apply for food stamps, individuals are required to appear in person at their local food stamp offices. However, elderly and disabled persons and persons who have transportation problems can be interviewed by telephone or at their homes. All States must allow individuals to apply for food stamps when they apply for AFDC. Individuals applying for SSI benefits can simultaneously apply for food stamps.

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires that local offices process applications for food stamps within 30 days after their receipt. However, households without significant income or resources can receive expedited food stamp eligibility verification procedures and acquire food stamp benefits within 5 calendar days after they apply. Those eligible for expedited service include (1) homeless persons, (2) migrant or seasonal farm workers with assets equal to or less than \$100, (3) households with gross income equal to or less than \$150 and assets equal to or less than \$100, and (4) households with shelter costs that exceed their gross income and assets combined.

FSP participants are required to appear in person at their local food stamp offices periodically for recertification. The certification period varies according to the likelihood of a change in a FSP household's financial circumstances. In summer 1991, a FSP household was certified for food stamps for an average of 10 months.

## BENEFIT COMPUTATION

After a household is certified for food stamps, its monthly food stamp benefit is computed on the basis of its net monthly income, the benefit reduction rate, and the maximum food stamp benefit for its household size and location. The maximum benefit to which a household is entitled is based on the June cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) for a family of four, adjusted for different household sizes and geographic areas outside the contiguous United States. The cost of the TFP is based on an economical and nutritious diet, adjusted for household size and composition. Maximum benefits are revised annually to reflect changes in the cost of the foods included in the TFP. As specified in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, maximum food stamp benefits in summer 1991 were based on 103 percent of the TFP for a family of four. Thus, in summer 1991, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of four in the contiguous United States was \$352 (appendix F).<sup>3</sup>

The benefit reduction rate is the rate at which benefits are reduced for every additional dollar of net income. The benefit reduction rate is 30 percent, reflecting the assumption that a household is

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<sup>3</sup>The maximum benefit was 100 percent of the TFP through 1988, 100.65 percent in 1989, 102.05 percent in 1990, and 103 percent in 1991 and thereafter.

expected to spend 30 percent of its net income on food, and that the FSP will provide the difference between that amount and the maximum benefit. Thus, benefits are reduced by 30 cents for every additional dollar of net income.

A household's monthly food stamp benefit is computed by subtracting 30 percent of its net income from the maximum benefit. If a household has zero net income, it receives the maximum food stamp benefit. All eligible one- and two-person households are guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month (except during the initial month of participation). For new participants, benefits are prorated for the first month.

## FOOD STAMP ISSUANCE

Local and State food stamp offices use various systems to provide food stamp benefits to FSP participants. The following are the four main methods of issuance:

- **ATP card system.** An authorization to participate identification card (ATP card) is mailed to the participant each month; the participant then exchanges the card for food stamp benefits at an authorized issuance office.
- **Mail system.** State and local offices mail the food stamp benefits directly to the participant.
- **Manual system.** The FSP participant obtains benefits directly from the food stamp office.
- **Electronic benefit transfer.** The FSP participant receives a "debit" card, similar to a bank card, which is used when making food purchases at authorized retail stores. The household's monthly benefit is electronically transferred to a benefit account created specifically for FSP benefits. When a purchase is made, the amount of the purchase is debited electronically from the household's FSP account.

## PROGRAM CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR

Two pieces of legislation had an impact on the FSP in fiscal year 1991. The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 raised the maximum food stamp benefit to 103 percent of the TFP for fiscal year 1991 and after. Public Law 101-624, the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 included the following provisions:

- Third party payments for transitional housing were excluded from income until they exceeded 50 percent of the maximum AFDC standard of need for shelter
- State General Assistance vendor payments were excluded from income if State law required that the payments be made directly to the vendors
- Households in which all members receive certain State General Assistance are automatically eligible for food stamps



- Annual clothing allowances were excluded from income
- Certain types of educational assistance were excluded from income
- All adult members of applicant households no longer had to sign the application
- Rules for student eligibility for the FSP were changed
- Households on Indian reservations were exempted from monthly reporting requirements
- Provisions were made for Electronic Benefit Transfer
- Provisions were made for retailer integrity
- Percentage of recovered overpayment claims that States could retain was reduced to 25 percent for fraud claims and 10 percent for household error claims
- Outstanding liabilities for excessive overpayment for fiscal years 1983 through 1985 were waived
- Disabled persons in Guam and the Virgin Islands were allowed to purchase meals in restaurants using food stamps

## FSP PARTICIPATION AND COSTS

After reaching a peak of 22.6 million persons in March 1983, FSP participation declined steadily (with the exception of seasonal fluctuations) as the economy expanded until fiscal year 1989 when it again began to increase (figure 2.1). FSP participation continued to increase in fiscal year 1990 when the FSP served an average of 20.1 million persons per month, and again in 1991 when it served an average of 22.6 million persons per month--increases of 9 and 13 percent, respectively.<sup>4</sup>

The increase in FSP participation beginning in 1989 and continuing for the next 2 years is associated with the economic recession that became evident in 1990. The economic indicators in fiscal years 1989 to 1991 (table 2.1) portray the beginning and continuation of a downturn in the economy--the growth in Gross National Product and productivity declined; the unemployment rate increased and the percentage of persons living in poverty increased. While the increase in FSP participation was caused in part by the softening economy, other factors, such as the liberalization of Medicaid, improved access to FSP offices in many areas of the country, simpler application forms, and the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which legalized 3 million undocumented aliens, had some impact on the increase in FSP participation.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>FSP participation and costs have continued to grow since 1991. In September 1992, 26.4 million persons received food stamps.

<sup>5</sup>For more information on factors affecting the increase in FSP participation, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. "The Increase in Food Stamp Program Participation between 1989 and 1990: A Report to Congress." Alexandria, VA, 1990.



Figure 2.1

Food Stamp Program participants, unemployed persons, and poor persons  
(1982 - 1991)

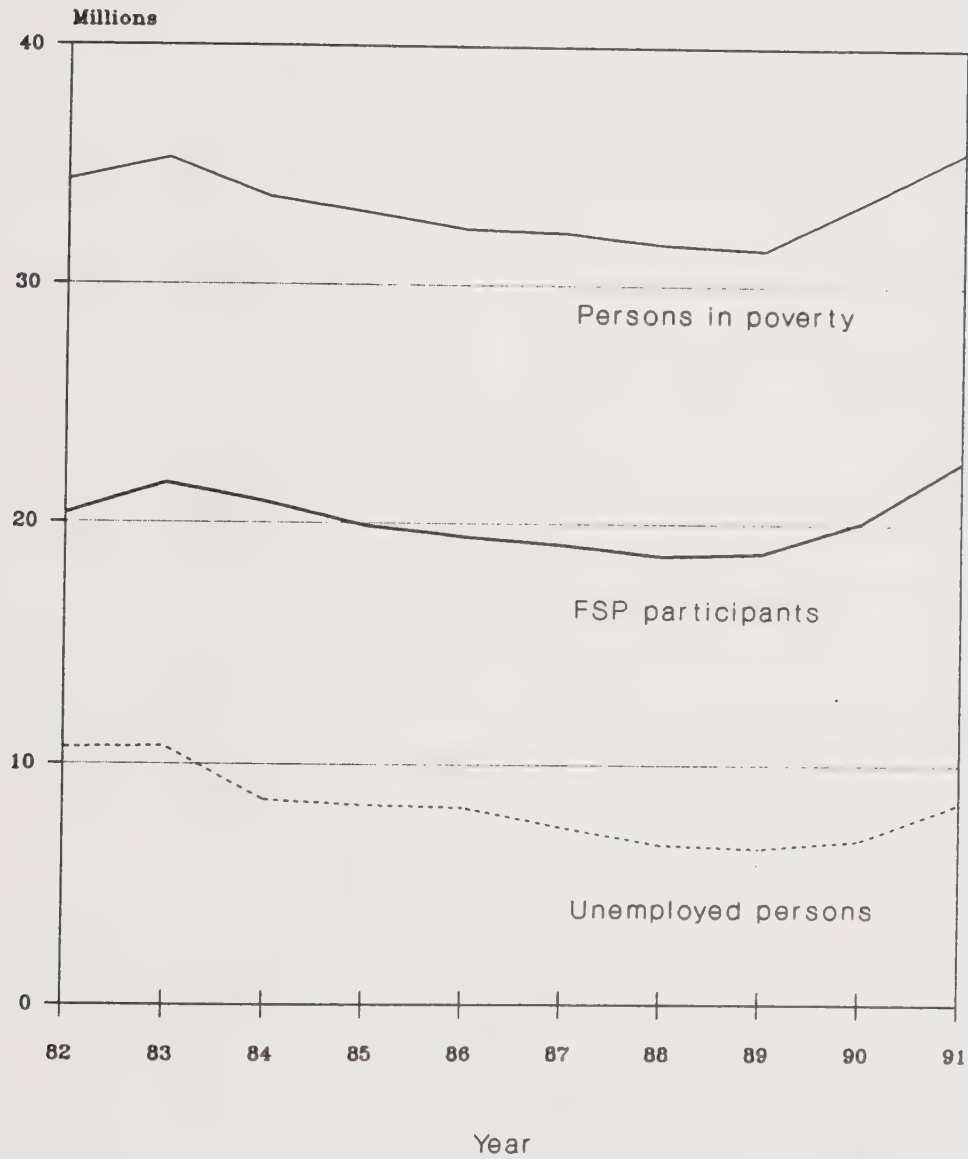


Table 2.1--Major economic indicators, calendar years 1982-1991  
(average annual rates in percent)

Economic indicator	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Real GNP increase <sup>a</sup>	-2.5	3.6	6.8	3.4	2.7	3.4	4.5	2.5	0.9	-0.7
Productivity increase <sup>b</sup>	-0.7	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.1	2.2	-0.5	-0.6	1.0
Unemployment rate <sup>c</sup>	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.5	6.7
Inflation rate <sup>d</sup>	6.2	4.1	4.4	3.7	2.6	3.2	3.9	4.3	4.2	3.6
Interest rates <sup>e</sup>	13.8	12.0	12.7	11.4	9.0	9.4	9.7	9.3	9.3	8.8
Persons below 100 percent of poverty level										
Number in thousands	34,398	35,303	33,700	33,064	32,370	32,546	31,878	31,487	33,585	35,708
Percentage of total population	15.0	15.2	14.4	14.0	13.6	13.4	13.1	12.8	13.5	14.2

<sup>a</sup>Percent change from preceding period, Table B-2.

<sup>b</sup>Percent change in output per hour, business sector, Table B-47.

<sup>c</sup>All civilian workers, Table B-39.

<sup>d</sup>Change in implicit price deflator for Gross Domestic Product, Table B-3.

<sup>e</sup>Corporate Aaa bond yield, Table B-71.

Source for first five lines of data: *Economic Report of the President*, Washington, DC, February 1992.

Source for last two lines of data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60.

Total costs of the FSP also increased between fiscal years 1989 and 1990, and then again from 1990 to 1991. They went from \$12.9 billion in 1989 to \$15.5 billion in 1990 and \$18.8 billion in 1991 (an increase of 46 percent over 2 years); costs for FSP benefits increased by 21 percent from 1989 to 1990 and by another 22 percent from 1990 to 1991. The average benefit per person increased from \$52 to \$59 in 1990 and then to \$64 in 1991, reflecting cost-of-living adjustments and a real increase in the maximum benefit amounts from 100.65 percent of the TFP to 103 percent of the TFP from 1989 to 1991. Total Federal FSP costs in fiscal year 1991 consisted of \$17.3 billion for benefits, \$1.2 billion for State administration, and \$214 million for E&T programs and other expenses.





## CHAPTER 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS AND PARTICIPANTS

The FSP serves the nutritional needs of a broad spectrum of low-income Americans. In summer 1991, the FSP provided benefits each month to an average of 23.4 million persons living in 9 million households.<sup>1</sup> Almost all FSP households lived in poverty (according to the official Federal Government poverty guidelines used for program eligibility in fiscal year 1991). The vast majority of FSP households contained either a child (under age 18), an elderly person (over age 59), or a disabled person. The average FSP household received a monthly FSP benefit of \$162, had an average gross monthly income of \$472 and an average net monthly income of \$261, was entitled to an average total deduction of \$236 a month, and had an average household size of 2.6 persons. This chapter elaborates on the economic status of FSP households and discusses the composition of FSP households, the characteristics of FSP participants, and changes in the characteristics of FSP households between summer 1990 and summer 1991.

### THE POVERTY STATUS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS<sup>2</sup>

The FSP provides benefits to households in need. As shown in table 3.1, the gross monthly income of 91 percent of FSP households in summer 1991 was less than or equal to 100 percent of the Federal Government poverty guidelines (appendix D). The gross monthly income of over half of all FSP households (62 percent) was less than or equal to 75 percent of the poverty line, and the income of 42 percent of all FSP households was less than or equal to 50 percent of the poverty line.

The FSP effectively targets benefits to the most needy households. That is, poorer households receive larger food stamp benefits than do households with more income. As shown in table 3.1, while only 42 percent of all FSP households had gross monthly incomes below 51 percent of the poverty line, they received 58 percent of all benefits. In contrast, the income of a greater number of FSP households (49 percent) was from 51 to 100 percent of the poverty line, but they received only 38 percent of the benefits.

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<sup>1</sup>The information discussed in this chapter and the estimates in appendix A are limited to summer 1991 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia based on a sample of 11,000 households. Additional FSP participants resided in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the FSP, served participants through its Nutritional Assistance Program, and the Northern Mariana Islands also participated in a block grant program. Based on FNS administrative records, the FSP served 23.4 million persons in summer 1991. The figure of 24.2 million persons served by the FSP in summer 1991 (as presented in appendix A) based on the Food Stamp Quality Control sample is higher than the administrative figure because it is a sample estimate and it is weighted by households rather than individuals (see appendix G for more information about the Food Stamp Quality Control sample).

<sup>2</sup>For more information on the economic status of FSP households, see appendix tables A-5 through A-11.

Table 3.1--Distribution of households and benefits by the poverty line,  
summer 1991

Gross income as a percentage of poverty <sup>a</sup>	Percent of all households	Percent of all benefits
25% or less	16.5	21.7
26-50	25.3	36.7
51-75	20.1	22.3
76-100	29.3	15.7
101-130	8.3	3.5
131 or more	0.4	0.0
Total <sup>b</sup>	100.0	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

To estimate the impact of food stamps on a household's purchasing power, we can add the dollar value of the food stamps to household income and then examine the distribution of households by poverty status.<sup>3</sup> As shown in table 3.2, the combination of cash and food stamps--an alternative measure of gross income that includes food stamp benefits--yields a significantly different distribution of FSP households by poverty status. Specifically, the alternative measure of income sufficiently increased the income of FSP households to move 7 percent of them above the poverty line. Food stamp benefits had an even greater impact on the poorest households, moving 27 percent of FSP households above 50 percent of the poverty line.

## HOUSEHOLDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

While the FSP does not restrict eligibility for food stamps to certain individuals, it effectively serves many households that contain persons with special needs--that is, children and elderly or disabled persons.<sup>4</sup> In summer 1991, 82 percent of all FSP households contained either a child or an elderly or disabled person. These households received 88 percent of all FSP benefits. This section describes the characteristics of FSP households containing children, elderly persons, or disabled persons.

### Children<sup>5</sup>

In summer 1991, the FSP served an average of 13 million children each month, representing over half of all participants. Of all FSP households, 61 percent contained children (table 3.3). Compared with other FSP households, the ones that contained children received a relatively high average food stamp benefit of \$216 per month (table 3.4). This relatively high benefit value primarily reflects the relatively large average size of households that contained children (3.5 persons).

Children who received food stamps in summer 1991 tended to live in households headed by single parents and tended to receive AFDC benefits in addition to food stamp benefits. Of all FSP households with children, 66 percent were headed by a single parent, representing almost half (41 percent) of all FSP households. Since the AFDC program serves predominantly single-parent families, a large percentage (75 percent) of these single-parent FSP households also received AFDC. Nearly a fifth (19 percent) of the single-parent FSP households received earnings.

A substantial proportion (18 percent) of FSP households contained multiple adults and children, representing 29 percent of all FSP households with children.<sup>6</sup> The characteristics of multiple-adult households with children varied considerably from those of single-parent households. The average monthly food stamp benefit for single-parent households with children was lower than that of multiple-adult households with children (\$204 versus \$256) because of their smaller average household size (3.1 versus 4.6 persons); however, the average monthly per-person benefit was higher

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<sup>3</sup>This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value.

<sup>4</sup>Elderly persons and disabled persons represent two distinct groups. Elderly persons are persons age 60 years or older. Disabled persons are persons under age 60 who receive SSI.

<sup>5</sup>For more information on FSP households with children, see appendix tables A-50 through A-52.

<sup>6</sup>In multiple-adult households with children, the second adult may not necessarily be a parent. He or she may be an adult child of the head, a sibling, a grandparent, or even an unrelated member.

Table 3.2--Effect of food stamp benefits on the poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1991

Gross income as a percentage of poverty <sup>a</sup>	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	42%	15%	-27
51-100	49	70	20
101 or more	9	16	7
Number of households (in thousands) <sup>b</sup>	9,204	9,204	

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Table 3.3--Household composition and selected characteristics of participating households, summer 1991

Household type	All households		Households with earned income <sup>a</sup>		Households with Social Security		Households with AFDC		Households with General Assistance		Households with SSI	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
<b>Children<sup>b</sup></b>												
Single-parent families	3,751	40.8	705	38.7	210	12.7	2,801	74.5	56	6.1	205	11.5
Multiple-parent families	1,642	17.8	741	40.7	155	9.4	756	20.1	116	12.5	196	11.1
Other <sup>c</sup>	259	2.8	36	2.0	5	0.3	53	1.4	9	0.9	1	0.1
Subtotal	5,652	61.4	1,482	81.3	370	22.4	3,610	96.0	181	19.5	403	22.7
<b>Elderly<sup>d</sup></b>												
Living alone	1,086	11.8	26	1.4	789	47.8	1	0.0	66	7.1	691	39.0
Not living alone	445	4.8	41	2.2	297	18.0	86	2.3	33	3.5	234	13.2
Subtotal	1,532	16.6	66	3.6	1,087	65.8	87	2.3	99	10.6	925	52.2
<b>Disabled<sup>e</sup></b>												
Living alone	455	4.9	27	1.5	165	10.0	1	0.0	39	4.2	455	25.6
Not living alone	394	4.3	53	2.9	85	5.1	255	6.8	38	4.1	394	22.2
Subtotal	848	9.2	80	4.4	250	15.1	256	6.8	77	8.3	848	47.8
<b>Other households<sup>f</sup></b>												
Single-person households	1,309	14.2	148	8.1	88	5.3	34	0.9	545	58.8	0	0.0
Multiple-person households	339	3.7	120	6.6	15	0.9	106	2.8	52	5.6	0	0.0
Subtotal	1,648	17.9	268	14.7	102	6.2	140	3.7	597	64.4	0	0.0
<b>Total<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>9,204</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>c</sup>Households with all members age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>Households without children, or elderly, or disabled members.

<sup>g</sup>The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3.4--Average values of selected characteristics by household composition, summer 1991

Household type	Average gross monthly income (dollars)	Average net monthly income (dollars)	Average monthly FSP benefit (dollars)	Average household size (persons)
Children <sup>a</sup>				
Single-parent families	476	255	204	3.1
Multiple-adult families	728	472	256	4.6
Other <sup>b</sup>	371	199	131	2.0
Subtotal	545	315	216	3.5
Elderly <sup>c</sup>				
Living alone	436	229	40	1.0
Not living alone	651	439	116	2.7
Subtotal	499	290	62	1.5
Disabled <sup>d</sup>				
Living alone	444	226	41	1.0
Not living alone	757	560	156	3.7
Subtotal	589	381	94	2.2
Other households <sup>e</sup>				
Single-person households	184	51	91	1.0
Multiple-person households	378	176	161	2.2
Subtotal	224	77	105	1.3
All households	472	261	162	2.6

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>b</sup>Households with all members age 17 or less.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no members age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Households without children, or elderly, or disabled members.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

for persons in single-parent households with children compared with persons in multiple-adult households with children (\$66 versus \$56, respectively) because single-parent households were poorer. Single-parent households with children had substantially lower gross monthly incomes (\$476 versus \$728). Of all multiple-adult households with children, 45 percent received income from earnings, 46 percent received AFDC, 39 percent received income from other sources, and 6 percent had no income from any source. Households with children constituted 81 percent of all FSP households with earnings.

### **Elderly Persons<sup>7</sup>**

In summer 1991, the FSP served 1.7 million elderly persons. FSP households containing elderly members represented 17 percent of all FSP households. These households received an average food stamp benefit of \$62 per month.

Elderly persons who received food stamps tended to live alone, and thus received relatively small food stamp benefits. In summer 1991, 71 percent of all FSP households with elderly members were single-person households. These single elderly participants received an average food stamp benefit of \$40 per month compared with \$116 in benefits for households with elderly persons not living alone. Elderly persons not living alone lived in households averaging 2.7 persons.

FSP households that contained elderly persons tended to receive SSI and Social Security income. In summer 1991, 60 percent of all FSP households with elderly members received SSI, 71 percent received Social Security, and 40 percent received both SSI and Social Security income. FSP households with elderly members represented the majority of FSP households with SSI and Social Security income (52 and 66 percent, respectively).

### **Disabled Persons<sup>8</sup>**

In summer 1991, households that contained disabled persons represented 9 percent of all FSP households. By definition, households with disabled members receive SSI. In summer 1991, these households received an average monthly food stamp benefit of \$94.

Similar to households with elderly members, disabled persons who lived alone received a lower average monthly food stamp benefit than did households that contained disabled persons not living alone (\$41 compared with \$156). Approximately half of all FSP households that contained disabled persons were single-person households, while half were multiple-person households. Again, the difference in benefits between the two groups reflects differences in average household size. Disabled persons who did not live alone lived in households averaging 3.7 persons.

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<sup>7</sup>For more information on FSP households with elderly persons, see appendix tables A-44 through A-46.

<sup>8</sup>The FSP considers persons disabled if they receive disability income from either SSI, GA, Social Security, Railroad Retirement, or several other sources. Using the Food Stamp Quality Control sample, however, only persons receiving disability income from SSI are identifiable. Thus, disabled persons in this report are defined as persons who receive SSI, but are not elderly. For more information on FSP households with disabled persons, see appendix tables A-47 through A-49.



## Other Households Served by the FSP

The FSP serves other needy households besides those that contain children, or elderly or disabled persons. In summer 1991, 18 percent of all FSP households contained one or more nonelderly, nondisabled adult. These households received an average food stamp benefit of \$105 per month. They tended to be single-person households (79 percent) and represented the majority (64 percent) of households that received General Assistance (GA).

Of all FSP households in summer 1991, 32 percent consisted of individuals who lived alone.<sup>9</sup> Because these households only contained one individual, the average monthly food stamp benefit was only \$64. Most of these individuals (60 percent) were female, and 37 percent were elderly. Compared with all FSP households, a relatively small proportion of FSP participants living alone received earnings (8 percent), and a relatively high proportion had zero gross income (16 percent).

## CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP PARTICIPANTS

The FSP serves a broad spectrum of individuals. In summer 1991, more than half were children (less than 18 years old), 41 percent were nonelderly adults (between ages 18 and 59), and 7 percent were elderly persons.<sup>10</sup> Approximately two-thirds of the children served by the FSP were school-age (between ages 5 and 17). Nearly three-fourths of both elderly and nonelderly adults were female. The majority (73 percent) of nonelderly adult FSP participants lived in households with children--half were single parents, and half lived in households containing at least one other adult and one child. Nearly 20 percent of all FSP participants were single adults.

With the exception of certain groups of individuals, such as caretakers of small children and people working at least 30 hours a week, all able-bodied nonelderly adult FSP participants are required to register for work and accept suitable employment as a condition of receiving food stamps. Similar to participants in the FSP, participants in other assistance programs also often are required to register for work. In summer 1991, 29 percent of all FSP household heads were registered for work under the FSP program or another assistance program.<sup>11</sup> Most (69 percent) FSP household heads were exempt from work registration requirements--15 percent were disabled, 14 percent were younger or older than the required ages, 24 percent were the caretakers of a child or an incapacitated adult, 8 percent were already employed full-time, and 8 percent were exempt for other reasons.

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<sup>9</sup>The data discussed here on single-person households are presented in appendix A.

<sup>10</sup>For more information on FSP participants and household heads, see appendix tables A-33 through A-40.

<sup>11</sup>Reports in this series prior to summer 1989 included as work registrants only persons required to register for work under the FSP; the summer 1989, summer 1990, and summer 1991 reports include as work registrants FSP participants registered for work under the FSP and FSP participants registered for the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program. For more information on the work registration status of FSP participants and household heads, see appendix tables A-39 and A-40.



## CHANGES IN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS

The number of households receiving food stamps increased between summer 1990 and summer 1991 by 15 percent.<sup>12</sup> During this time, the characteristics of FSP households changed as well.<sup>13</sup> For example, the percentage of households containing an elderly persons decreased from 18 to 17 percent, the percentage of households containing pre-school age children increased from 32 to 37 percent, and the percentage of households headed by a black person decreased by almost 3 percent.

The number of participants increased between summer 1990 and summer 1991 as well. The percentage of children and non-elderly adults increased, while the percentage of elderly participants decreased.

FSP households were poorer on average in summer 1991 than they had been in summer 1990; average gross and net income per household and per person declined in real dollars (table 3.5). The percentage of households with no gross income increased from 7 to 9 percent and the percentage of households with no net income increased from 19 percent to 20 percent. Similarly, the percent of households with gross income under 50 percent of the poverty line increased from 39 to 42 percent.

Between summer 1990 and summer 1991, both the average and maximum food stamp benefit increased in real dollars, by 7.3 and 4.3 percent, respectively (table 3.5).<sup>14</sup> The percentage of FSP households with the minimum benefit decreased from 6 percent to 5 percent.

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<sup>12</sup>For more information on trends in the characteristics of FSP households, see appendix tables A-56 and A-57.

<sup>13</sup>This analysis is based on cross-sectional samples from summer 1990 and summer 1991. Thus, whether changes in the characteristics of FSP households reflect changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, of new participants, or both is not known. In addition, the differences may be the result of several factors including FSP legislation, changes in the economy, or changes in other social programs.

<sup>14</sup>The maximum benefit was 100 percent of the TFP through 1988, 100.65 percent in 1989, 102.05 percent in 1990, and 103 percent in 1991 and thereafter.

Table 3.5--Average nominal and real values of selected characteristics,  
summer 1990 and summer 1991

Selected characteristics	Nominal values			Real values	
	Summer 1990	Summer 1991	Percentage change	Summer 1991	Percentage change
Average gross income <sup>a</sup>					
Per household	\$455	\$472	+3.7	\$453	-0.4
Per person	175	180	+2.7	173	-1.3
Average net income <sup>a</sup>					
Per household	252	261	+3.7	251	-0.4
Per person	97	100	+2.6	96	-1.4
Average total deduction <sup>a</sup>	225	236	+4.9	227	-0.8
Average household benefit <sup>b</sup>	148	162	+9.5	159	+7.3
Maximum coupon benefit (for a family of four) <sup>b</sup>	331	352	+6.3	345	+4.3
Consumer Price Index					
All items	131.0	136.4	+4.1		
Food at home	132.6	135.5	+2.2		

<sup>a</sup>Real values are in constant 1990 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI-U for all items between summer 1990 and summer 1991 (4.1 percent).

<sup>b</sup>Real values are in constant 1990 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI-U for food at home between summer 1990 and summer 1991 (2.2 percent).

Source of CPI-U values: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. *Survey of Current Business*, vol. 72, no. 6. June 1992, p. S-5 and S-6.

Source of nominal values: Summer 1990 and summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

## CHAPTER 4: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS BY METROPOLITAN STATUS

This chapter compares the characteristics of FSP households in urban areas with those in rural areas in an average month in fiscal year 1991.<sup>1</sup> In an average month, almost three-quarters of FSP households lived in urban areas.<sup>2</sup> FSP households in urban areas were more likely to contain single parents with children and to receive AFDC income than FSP households in rural areas, while FSP households in rural areas were more likely to contain elderly or disabled members, to receive SSI, and to have earnings than households in urban areas. The following sections elaborate on the differences between FSP households in urban and rural areas.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

As shown in table 4.1, 74 percent of FSP households were located in urban areas, 25 percent were located in rural areas, and the metropolitan status of the remaining 1 percent is unknown.<sup>3</sup> The distribution of FSP households by metropolitan status differed by region and State. Specifically, of all FSP households in the South, 37 percent lived in rural areas, compared with only 9 percent of FSP households in the Northeast (appendix table B-2). In the Midwest and the West, 24 percent and 20 percent, respectively, of all FSP households in the region lived in rural areas. In most States, the majority of FSP households lived in urban areas; however, in Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, significantly more than half of the FSP households lived in rural areas (appendix table B-3).

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The composition of urban FSP households differed from that of rural FSP households in several ways (table 4.2 and appendix table B-4). Urban households were more likely to contain children and be headed by a single parent than rural households. Specifically, 62 percent of urban FSP households contained children compared with 57 percent of rural FSP households. In addition, 71 percent of urban households with children were single-parent households compared with 56 percent of rural FSP

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<sup>1</sup>The estimates presented in this chapter and in appendix B are monthly averages based on all 12 months of the Food Stamp Quality Control fiscal year 1991 database (a sample of approximately 63,700 households). In contrast, the analysis in the rest of the report and the tables in appendix A are based only on the July and August sample (a sample of approximately 10,600 households).

<sup>2</sup>A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau. A household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local agency is not located in an MSA. An MSA is a city with at least 50,000 people or an area that includes a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000, along with surrounding counties having strong community ties to the main area. In Alaska, all counties are coded with a single code which classifies all households as living in urban areas.

<sup>3</sup>The tables in this chapter and in appendix B include the households with an unknown metropolitan status in the totals.

Table 4.1--Distribution of participating households by metropolitan status, 1991

	Number (thousands)	Percent
Urban areas	6,555	74.0
Rural areas	2,233	25.2
Unknown	67	0.8
Total	8,855	100.0

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 4.2--Distribution of participating households by household composition and metropolitan status, 1991

Household composition	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households <sup>a,b</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Households with children <sup>c</sup>	4,048	61.7	1,264	56.5	5,349	59.4
Households with elderly <sup>d</sup>	935	14.3	506	22.7	1,456	16.4
Other households	1,635	24.9	509	22.8	2,161	24.4
Total <sup>a</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

<sup>b</sup>Includes households located in areas where metropolitan status is unknown.

<sup>c</sup>Household with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Household with at least one member age 60 or more.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



households. Since urban households were more likely to be single-parent households compared with rural households, they were also more likely to receive AFDC income.

On the other hand, urban FSP households were less likely to contain elderly persons than rural FSP households. Only 14 percent of urban FSP households contained an elderly person compared with 23 percent of rural FSP households. The percentage of urban FSP households containing an elderly person living alone was also less than that of rural FSP households (11 percent compared with 16 percent). The majority of the households with an elderly person living alone in both urban and rural areas contained a single female.

FSP households in urban areas were slightly more likely than rural FSP households to contain a single, non-elderly person without children. About 20 percent of urban FSP households fit this description compared with 16 percent of rural FSP households. In both cases, a slightly higher percentage of those households consisted of a single non-elderly male rather than a single non-elderly female. Only 5 percent of urban households contained multiple non-elderly adults without children compared with 7 percent of rural households.

The characteristics of individual FSP participants also differed by metropolitan status (appendix tables B-5 and B-6). Specifically, the majority (61 percent) of FSP participants in rural areas were white, yet only about one-third of participants in urban areas were white. In contrast, the majority (57 percent) of urban FSP participants were black or hispanic, compared with less than one-third of rural FSP participants. A higher percentage of urban FSP participants were Asian (3.5 percent compared with 0.5 percent), and a higher percentage of rural FSP participants were Native American (3.7 percent compared with 0.6 percent).

On average, FSP participants in urban areas were younger and more likely to be female than rural FSP participants. The average age of urban FSP participants was 21 years while the average age of rural participants was 25 years. Over half (54 percent) of all urban FSP participants were children and over 20 percent were pre-school age (less than 5 years old). Slightly less than half (48 percent) of rural participants were children and only 17 percent were pre-school age. Approximately 40 percent of both urban and rural participants were non-elderly adults (age 18 to 59). However, the percentage of urban participants that were elderly (6 percent) was notably lower than the percentage of elderly rural participants (10 percent).

Over 60 percent of urban FSP participants were female compared with 58 percent of rural participants. In both urban and rural areas, the percentage of participants that were female increased in the older age groups. In addition, the difference between the percentage of females in urban and rural areas also increased in the older age groups. The percentage of urban adults that were female (72 percent), was considerably higher than the percentage of rural female adult participants (64 percent). In addition, 73 percent of elderly urban FSP participants were female compared with 70 percent of elderly rural participants.

## **POVERTY, INCOME, AND RESOURCES**

Compared with FSP households in urban areas, households in rural areas had higher average gross and net monthly incomes and assets (appendix table B-7). Specifically, the average monthly gross and net incomes of urban FSP households were \$458 and \$244 respectively, and the average value of assets in those households was \$60. In contrast, the average monthly gross and net incomes of rural FSP households were \$482 and \$281 respectively, and the average value of their assets was \$130. A

slightly higher percentage of urban FSP households had zero gross and zero net incomes compared with rural FSP households (appendix table B-8). A slightly higher percentage of FSP households in urban areas had incomes below 100 percent of the poverty line (93 percent) compared with households in rural areas (90 percent) (table 4.3 and appendix table B-9).

The sources of income for FSP households in rural areas differed from those of households in urban areas (table 4.4 and appendix table B-10). FSP households in rural areas were more likely than households in urban areas to have earned income (28 percent compared with 17 percent) and less likely in general to receive unearned income (72 percent compared with 79 percent). Compared with rural FSP households, urban FSP households were more likely to receive AFDC or GA; however, they were less likely than rural households to receive SSI or Social Security. These differences reflect the differences in household composition; households in urban areas were more likely to be single female headed households with children and thus to receive AFDC and households in rural areas were more likely to contain elderly and disabled persons and thus to receive SSI or Social Security.

The average amount of earned income received by urban households was \$584 compared with \$594 for rural households. The average amount of unearned income received by urban households (\$433) was significantly higher than the average amount of unearned income of rural households (\$410). This gap reflects differences in the average amount of AFDC benefits received by households in urban and rural areas (\$414 and \$303).<sup>4</sup>

Rural households were more likely to possess countable assets than urban households (34 percent compared with 20 percent). Moreover, rural households with assets tended to hold more valuable assets; the average value of countable assets for those with assets was \$379 for rural households compared with \$297 for urban households.

## FSP DEDUCTIONS

The FSP allows deductions for earnings and for dependent-care, medical, and shelter expenses. Households in urban and rural areas in the same State are subject to the same rules for determining the size of these deductions and are subject to the same caps on the deductions. However, differences in the characteristics of urban and rural households affect the *amount* of the deductions to which they are entitled (appendix table B-11).

FSP households with earnings are entitled to an earned income deduction equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of all of the members of the household. Reflecting the higher percentage of households with earnings in rural areas, 28 percent of rural FSP households were entitled to an earned income deduction compared with only 17 percent of urban households. The average amount of the earned income deduction, however, was the same for urban and rural households (\$117).

Households with dependents receive a dependent-care deduction for expenses involved in caring for children and other dependents while household members work, seek employment, or go to school. Although the percentage of urban households with children was 5 points higher than that of rural households with children, the percentage of urban households entitled to a dependent-care deduction was slightly lower. The average amount of the dependent-care deduction, however, was somewhat higher among urban households entitled to the deduction (\$129 compared with \$112).

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<sup>4</sup>AFDC benefit levels are determined by each State and vary a great deal among States.

Table 4.3--Distribution of participating households by gross income as a percentage of poverty and metropolitan status, 1991

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line <sup>a</sup>	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Below 50%	2,782	42.4	874	39.1	3,683	41.6
50 to 100%	3,308	50.5	1,135	50.8	4,476	50.6
Above 100%	465	7.1	224	10.0	696	7.9
Total <sup>b</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average gross income as a percentage of the poverty line		57.2		59.7		57.9

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see Appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 4.4--Distribution of participating households by income sources and metropolitan status, 1991

Income source	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Earned income <sup>a</sup>	1,114	17.0	623	27.9	1,755	19.8
Unearned income <sup>b</sup>	5,188	79.1	1,603	71.8	6,838	77.2
No income	552	8.4	176	7.9	732	8.3
Total <sup>c</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages and salaries, self-employment, earned income tax credit and other earned income.

<sup>b</sup>Unearned income includes AFDC, GA, SSI, Social Security, Unemployment benefits, Worker's Compensation, other government benefits, household contributions, household deemed income, educational loans and others unearned income.

<sup>c</sup>The sum of individual sources does not add to the total because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



A medical deduction is available to households that contain an elderly or disabled person. Among rural FSP households, 5 percent were entitled to a medical deduction, compared with 2 percent of urban FSP households reflecting the higher percentage of households with elderly or disabled persons in rural areas. The average amount of the medical deduction was slightly higher in urban areas than in rural areas (\$92 compared with \$89).

The excess shelter expense deduction is available to all households having shelter costs that exceed 50 percent of their countable income after all other potential deductions are subtracted from gross income. The shelter expenses of urban households were significantly higher on average than those of rural households (\$271 compared with \$216) (table 4.5 and appendix table B-12). Similarly, 24 percent of urban households had shelter costs in excess of \$400 per month compared with only 11 percent of rural households. It follows, therefore, that the excess shelter expense deductions of households in urban areas were considerably higher (averaging \$137) than those in rural areas (averaging \$119). Furthermore, over a quarter of all urban FSP households had an excess shelter expense deduction equal to the cap compared with only 15 percent of rural households (appendix table B-13). Of the urban households at the cap, almost three-quarters received less than the maximum food stamp benefit, meaning that if the cap had been removed, they would have received a greater food stamp benefit amount.

## **FSP ASSISTANCE**

In an average month in fiscal year 1991, urban and rural households received average monthly benefits of \$162 and \$160, respectively. The average monthly benefit per person varied slightly more, averaging \$63 and \$60, respectively (table 4.6 and appendix table B-14). Although the average amount of monthly benefit was almost the same in urban and rural areas, a slightly higher percentage of rural households received the minimum benefit. Similarly, 36 percent of rural households received 50 percent or less of the maximum benefit compared with only 27 percent of urban households.



Table 4.5--Distribution of participating households  
by the value of the shelter deduction and by metropolitan status, 1991

Value of shelter expense	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
No expense	783	12.0	282	12.6	1,074	12.1
\$1-400	4,200	64.1	1,703	76.3	5,948	67.2
401 +	1,571	24.0	248	11.1	1,833	20.7
Total <sup>a</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average shelter expense	\$271		\$216		\$257	

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 4.6--Distribution of participating households by  
benefit as a percentage of maximum benefit and metropolitan status

Benefit as a percent of maximum benefit	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Minimum benefit	252	3.8	108	4.8	363	4.1
0 - 50%	1,491	22.7	701	31.4	2,209	24.9
51 - 99%	3,447	52.6	980	43.9	4,459	50.4
Maximum benefit	1,365	20.8	444	19.9	1,824	20.6
Total	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average benefit as a percent of maximum	68.6		62.6		67.1	
Average monthly household benefit	\$162		\$160		\$161	
Average monthly benefit per person	\$63		\$60		\$62	

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



## **APPENDIX A**

### **DETAILED TABLES OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS**





## CONTENTS OF APPENDIX A

Table		Page
<b>Summary of 1991 Characteristics</b>		
A-1	Aggregate summer 1991 participation totals . . . . .	39
A-2	Average values of selected characteristics by household composition . . . . .	40
A-3	Average values of selected characteristics by income source . . . . .	41
A-4	Distribution of participating households with selected characteristics . . . . .	42
<b>Income</b>		
A-5	Distribution of participating households by gross and net monthly income . . . .	43
A-6	Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size . . . . .	44
A-7	Distribution of participating households by net monthly income and household size . . . . .	45
A-8	Distribution of participating households by income source . . . . .	46
A-9	Distribution of participating households, average income, average benefit, and average household size by selected income sources . . . . .	47
A-10	Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children . . . . .	48
A-11	Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children . . . . .	49
<b>Deductions</b>		
A-12	Distribution of participating households claiming deductions and value of deductions claimed . . . . .	50
A-13	Distribution of participating households by amount of total deduction . . . . .	51
A-14	Average total deduction for all participating households by gross monthly income and household size . . . . .	52

## APPENDIX A Contents (continued)

Table		Page
A-15	Distribution of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed .....	53
A-16	Distribution of participating households by amount of earned income deduction .....	54
A-17	Distribution of participating households claiming dependent-care deduction and value of deduction claimed .....	55
A-18	Distribution of participating households by amount of dependent-care deduction .....	56
A-19	Distribution of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction and value of deduction claimed .....	57
A-20	Distribution of participating households by amount of excess shelter deduction .....	58
A-21	Distribution of participating households by the value of shelter deduction ....	59
A-22	Distribution of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed .....	60
A-23	Distribution of participating households by amount of medical deduction for all households, households with elderly, and households with disabled ....	61
<b>Benefits and Resources</b>		
A-24	Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit .....	62
A-25	Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size .....	63
A-26	Distribution of households by FSP benefit as a percentage of maximum benefit and household poverty status .....	64
A-27	Distribution of participating households by total countable resources for all households and households with elderly or disabled .....	65
<b>Certification</b>		
A-28	Distribution of participating households by type of most recent action and expedited service .....	66

## APPENDIX A Contents (continued)

Table		Page
A-29	Distribution of participating households by length of certification period . . . . .	67
<b>FSP Participants and Household Composition</b>		
A-30	Distribution of participating households by household size . . . . .	68
A-31	Household composition of participating households . . . . .	69
A-32	Distribution of participating households by household size, number of elderly, children, preschool age children, and school age children . . . . .	70
A-33	Distribution of participants by age and sex . . . . .	71
A-34	Distribution of participants by Thrifty Food Plan sex-age groups and by household size . . . . .	72
A-35	Age-related characteristics of participants . . . . .	73
A-36	Distribution of participating households by race or ethnic origin of household head . . . . .	74
A-37	Distribution of participating households by selected characteristics of household members . . . . .	75
<b>Employment and Work Registration</b>		
A-38	Distribution of participating households by employment status of household head . . . . .	76
A-39	Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head . . . . .	77
A-40	Distribution of participants by work registration status . . . . .	78
<b>Earned Income</b>		
A-41	Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without earned income . . . . .	79
A-42	Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without earned income . . . . .	80
A-43	Distribution of participating households with and without earned income for selected characteristics . . . . .	81

## APPENDIX A Contents (continued)

Table		Page
<b>Elderly Persons</b>		
A-44	Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without elderly .....	82
A-45	Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without elderly .....	83
A-46	Distribution of participating households with and without elderly for selected characteristics .....	84
<b>Disabled Persons</b>		
A-47	Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without disabled .....	85
A-48	Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without disabled .....	86
A-49	Distribution of participating households with and without disabled for selected characteristics .....	87
<b>Children</b>		
A-50	Distribution of participating households and benefits for households with children, school age children, preschool age children, and no children .....	88
A-51	Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with children, school age children, preschool age children, and no children .....	89
A-52	Distribution of participating households with children, school age children, preschool age children, and no children for selected characteristics .....	90
<b>AFDC</b>		
A-53	Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants for households with and without AFDC income .....	91
A-54	Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without AFDC income .....	92
A-55	Distribution of participating households with and without AFDC income for selected characteristics .....	93



## APPENDIX A Contents (continued)

Table		Page
<b>Survey Comparisons: 1980 through 1991</b>		
A-56	Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1980 - summer 1991 .....	94
A-57	Comparison of percentage of participating households with selected characteristics for August 1980 - summer 1991 .....	95



Appendix Table A-1--Aggregate summer 1991 participation totals

Area	Number of households (thousands)	Number of people (thousands)	Monthly value of benefits (thousands)
United States	9,204	23,364	\$1,482,747
Continental United States	9,157	23,246	1,471,406
Alaska and Hawaii	47	118	11,341
Outlying Areas <sup>a</sup>	8	26	2,548
Total	9,212	23,391	\$1,485,295

<sup>a</sup>Includes participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Source: Food Stamp Program Integrated Information System.

Appendix Table A-2--Average values of selected characteristics by household composition

	All households	Households with elderly <sup>a</sup>	Households with disabled <sup>b</sup>	Households with children <sup>c</sup>
Gross monthly income (dollars)	472	499	589	545
Net monthly income (dollars)	261	290	381	315
Total deduction <sup>d</sup> (dollars)	236	217	210	247
Countable resources <sup>e</sup> (dollars)	74	184	100	51
Monthly benefit (dollars)	162	62	94	216
Household size (persons)	2.6	1.5	2.2	3.5
Certification period (months)	9.8	11.7	10.6	9.4

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>e</sup>The resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-3--Average values of selected characteristics by income source

	All households	Households with earned income <sup>a</sup>	Households with AFDC	Households with General Assistance	Households with SSI	Households with Social Security
Gross monthly income (dollars)	472	750	497	335	537	543
Net monthly income (dollars)	261	427	282	135	334	332
Total deduction <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	236	332	221	233	204	213
Countable resources (dollars)	74	103	31	22	124	187
Monthly benefit (dollars)	162	181	215	122	74	75
Household size (persons)	2.6	3.5	3.4	1.7	1.8	1.8
Certification period (months)	9.8	9.1	9.8	9.6	11.3	11.5

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-4--Distribution of participating households  
with selected characteristics

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households <sup>a</sup>
Zero gross income	796	8.7
Zero net income	1,839	20.0
Minimum benefit <sup>b</sup>	410	4.5
Elderly <sup>c</sup>	1,532	16.6
Children <sup>d</sup>	5,652	61.4
School age children <sup>e</sup>	4,190	45.5
Preschool age children <sup>f</sup>	3,355	36.5
Disabled <sup>g</sup>	848	9.2

<sup>a</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>b</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

<sup>g</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-5--Distribution of participating households by  
gross and net monthly income

Amount of monthly income	Gross income		Net income	
	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	796	8.7	1,839	20.0
\$1-99	152	1.6	1,265	13.7
100-199	606	6.6	1,315	14.3
200-299	929	10.1	1,444	15.7
300-399	1,172	12.7	1,126	12.2
400-499	1,986	21.6	676	7.3
500-599	1,090	11.8	554	6.0
600-699	758	8.2	393	4.3
700-799	422	4.6	220	2.4
800-899	475	5.2	125	1.4
900-999	285	3.1	101	1.1
1000+	533	5.8	147	1.6
Total <sup>a</sup>	9,204	100.0	9,204	100.0
Average gross income = \$472				
Average net income = \$261				

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-6--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Number of households <sup>a</sup> (thousands)	Percent of all households <sup>a</sup>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	479	106	109	69	13	10	8	3	796	8.7
\$1-99	83	33	18	10	7	1	--	--	152	1.6
100-199	268	172	118	34	12	2	1	0	606	6.6
200-299	231	376	177	96	41	5	4	--	929	10.1
300-399	340	281	308	177	43	11	5	8	1,172	12.7
400-499	1,174	306	236	161	73	26	6	3	1,986	21.6
500-599	283	346	212	133	69	30	7	9	1,090	11.8
600-699	63	201	276	99	71	24	4	20	758	8.2
700-799	13	101	138	80	56	18	9	7	422	4.6
800-899	7	98	106	176	49	19	5	15	475	5.2
900-999	0	11	83	65	86	24	12	3	285	3.1
1000+	1	6	60	154	112	97	61	42	533	5.8
Number of households <sup>a</sup>	2,943	2,035	1,839	1,255	632	267	122	111	9,204	100.0
Percent of all households <sup>a</sup>	32.0	22.1	20.0	13.6	6.9	2.9	1.3	1.2	100.0	
Average gross income	\$319	\$417	\$496	\$598	\$705	\$851	\$957	\$939	\$472	

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-7--Distribution of participating households by  
net monthly income and household size

Net monthly income	Household size								Number of households <sup>a</sup> (thousands)	Percent of all households <sup>a</sup>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	971	389	271	137	42	18	10	3	1,839	20.0
\$1-99	421	375	269	129	58	8	1	3	1,265	13.7
100-199	446	363	287	144	50	14	6	5	1,315	14.3
200-299	594	276	298	179	55	23	5	13	1,444	15.7
300-399	395	243	216	144	80	34	5	10	1,126	12.2
400-499	97	207	152	106	69	26	11	7	676	7.3
500-599	13	126	164	134	74	20	4	19	554	6.0
600-699	0	45	116	122	69	26	12	2	393	4.3
700-799	5	8	51	80	51	15	5	5	220	2.4
800-899	0	1	16	40	38	18	8	5	125	1.4
900-999	--	0	1	35	20	24	10	10	101	1.1
1000+	0	1	--	4	27	42	44	28	147	1.6
Number of households <sup>a</sup>	2,943	2,035	1,839	1,255	632	267	122	111	9,204	100.0
Percent of all households <sup>a</sup>	32.0	22.1	20.0	13.6	6.9	2.9	1.3	1.2	100.0	
Average net income	\$145	\$206	\$269	\$361	\$454	\$588	\$733	\$696	\$261	

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-8--Distribution of participating households by income source

Amount of monthly income from specified source	Earned income <sup>a</sup>		Social Security		AFDC or General Assistance		SSI		Other income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	7,381	80.2	7,552	82.1	4,598	50.0	7,431	80.7	7,664	83.3
\$1-99	138	1.5	28	0.3	270	2.9	346	3.8	592	6.4
100-199	147	1.6	129	1.4	711	7.7	314	3.4	249	2.7
200-299	165	1.8	334	3.6	983	10.7	211	2.3	157	1.7
300-399	160	1.7	437	4.7	968	10.5	124	1.3	192	2.1
400-499	160	1.7	347	3.8	605	6.6	683	7.4	93	1.0
500-599	162	1.8	184	2.0	512	5.6	30	0.3	78	0.8
600-699	193	2.1	101	1.1	259	2.8	39	0.4	66	0.7
700-799	141	1.5	47	0.5	83	0.9	2	0.0	47	0.5
800-899	149	1.6	30	0.3	117	1.3	22	0.2	32	0.3
900-999	119	1.3	12	0.1	49	0.5	--	--	18	0.2
1000+	289	3.1	3	0.0	47	0.5	1	0.0	16	0.2
Number of households <sup>b</sup>	9,204	100.0	9,204	100.0	9,204	100.0	9,204	100.0	9,204	100.0
Households with income	1,823	19.8	1,652	17.9	4,606	50.0	1,773	19.3	1,540	16.7
Average amount of income <sup>c</sup>	\$609		\$395		\$366		\$288		\$250	
Average gross income <sup>c</sup>	\$750		\$543		\$463		\$537		\$554	

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

<sup>c</sup>For households with income from specified source.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-9--Distribution of participating households, average income, average benefit, and average household size by selected income sources

Income source	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average income amount <sup>a</sup>		Average benefit <sup>a</sup>	Average household size
			Gross	From source		
Earned Income:						
Wages and salaries	1,653	18.0	\$776	\$635	\$180	3.6
Self-employment	133	1.4	539	318	219	3.4
Earned income tax credit	1	0.0	485	303	127	2.3
Other earned income	63	0.7	576	260	115	2.1
Unearned Income:						
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	3,760	40.8	497	394	215	3.4
Household General Assistance	927	10.1	335	222	122	1.7
Supplemental Security Income	1,773	19.3	537	288	74	1.8
Social Security	1,652	17.9	543	395	75	1.8
Household unemployment income	194	2.1	673	479	176	3.5
Veterans' benefits	179	1.9	521	238	97	2.0
Workers' compensation	44	0.5	802	605	155	3.9
Other government benefits	145	1.6	407	147	193	2.8
Household contributions	336	3.7	563	213	192	3.2
Household deemed income	3	0.0	262	108	236	3.0
Educational loans	42	0.5	539	134	199	3.2
Other unearned income	675	7.3	553	184	149	2.7
No Income:	796	8.7	0	0	178	1.9
Total <sup>b</sup>	9,204	100.0	472		162	2.6

<sup>a</sup>Average over households with income from specified source.

<sup>b</sup>The sum of individual income sources does not add to the total because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-10--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line <sup>a</sup>	All households		Households with elderly <sup>b</sup>		Households with elderly or disabled <sup>c</sup>		Households with children <sup>d</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	1,520	16.5	32	2.1	34	1.4	822	14.5
26-50	2,328	25.3	76	4.9	118	5.0	1,833	32.4
51-75	1,854	20.1	230	15.0	410	17.2	1,338	23.7
76-100	2,700	29.3	951	62.1	1,484	62.4	1,217	21.5
101-125	709	7.7	213	13.9	293	12.3	397	7.0
126-130	58	0.6	14	0.9	18	0.8	38	0.7
131-150	20	0.2	9	0.6	12	0.5	5	0.1
151 or more	14	0.2	7	0.4	11	0.5	1	0.0
Total <sup>e</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	2,380	100.0	5,652	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-11--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Net income as a percentage of the poverty line <sup>a</sup>	All households		Households with elderly <sup>b</sup>		Households with elderly or disabled <sup>c</sup>		Households with children <sup>d</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	4,429	48.1	304	19.9	446	18.7	2,696	47.7
26-50	2,358	25.6	482	31.5	758	31.8	1,578	27.9
51-75	1,884	20.5	564	36.8	899	37.8	1,076	19.0
76-100	512	5.6	173	11.3	261	11.0	298	5.3
101-125	15	0.2	8	0.5	12	0.5	4	0.1
126-130	.0	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
131-150	5	0.1	1	0.1	5	0.2	--	--
151 or more	1	0.0	--	--	--	--	0	0.0
Total <sup>e</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	2,380	100.0	5,652	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-12--Distribution of participating households claiming deductions  
and value of deductions claimed<sup>a</sup>

Type of deduction	Number of households claiming deduction (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
			Over claiming households	Over all households
Earned income <sup>b</sup>	1,823	19.8	\$122	\$24
Dependent care <sup>c</sup>	242	2.6	125	3
Shelter <sup>d</sup>	6,221	67.6	133	90
Medical <sup>e</sup>	218	2.4	92	2
Total <sup>f</sup>	9,204	100.0	236	236

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>c</sup>Subject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

<sup>d</sup>Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

<sup>e</sup>Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>Includes the standard deduction for all households (see appendix E). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-13--Distribution of participating households by  
amount of total deduction

Amount of total deduction <sup>a</sup>	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$116	2,175	23.6
117-150	647	7.0
151-200	1,026	11.1
201-250	1,205	13.1
251-300	1,028	11.2
301+	3,123	33.9
Total <sup>b</sup>	9,204	100.0
Average deduction for claiming households = \$236		

<sup>a</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-14--Average total deduction<sup>a</sup> for all participating households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
	(dollars)								
None	163	195	218	244	236	241	160	265	184
\$1-99	169	163	183	240	275	259	--	--	179
100-199	235	195	189	191	180	274	289	302	211
200-299	246	215	222	218	223	227	180	--	225
300-399	239	243	223	222	240	216	156	230	232
400-499	212	233	243	216	235	208	187	211	220
500-599	247	224	247	230	222	256	158	258	236
600-699	267	230	249	237	233	228	246	218	241
700-799	256	267	277	285	242	263	187	234	267
800-899	259	321	268	259	263	261	169	262	273
900-999	234	332	324	279	268	334	290	174	295
1000+	366	354	410	385	353	311	268	272	345
Average total deduction	215	230	247	256	261	274	236	249	236

<sup>a</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-15--Distribution of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed<sup>a</sup>

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly <sup>b</sup>	1,532	66	4.3	\$66	\$3
Children <sup>c</sup>	5,652	1,482	26.2	134	35
Disabled <sup>d</sup>	848	80	9.5	66	6
Earned income <sup>e</sup>	1,823	1,823	100.0	122	122
Public assistance <sup>f</sup>	4,606	406	8.8	79	7
Total <sup>g</sup>	9,204	1,823	19.8	122	24

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>f</sup>Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

<sup>g</sup>The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-16--Distribution of participating households  
by amount of earned income deduction<sup>a</sup>

Amount of earned income deduction <sup>b</sup>	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	7,376	80.1
\$1-50	381	4.1
51-100	397	4.3
101-150	434	4.7
151-200	326	3.5
201-250	169	1.8
251-300	80	0.9
300+	35	0.4
Unknown	5	0.1
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0
Average earned income deduction for claiming earned income households = \$122		

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income credit.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-17--Distribution of participating households claiming dependent-care deduction<sup>a</sup> and value of deduction claimed<sup>b</sup>

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction		Percent with the maximum deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households	With deduction	All households
Elderly <sup>c</sup>	1,532	4	0.3	\$168	\$0	0.0	0.0
Children <sup>d</sup>	5,652	242	4.3	125	5	9.5	0.4
Disabled <sup>e</sup>	848	5	0.6	116	1	0.0	0.0
Earned income <sup>f</sup>	1,823	212	11.6	134	16	10.5	1.2
Public assistance <sup>g</sup>	4,606	79	1.7	120	2	8.2	0.1
Total <sup>h</sup>	9,204	242	2.6	125	3	9.5	0.2

<sup>a</sup>Subject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

<sup>b</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>g</sup>Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

<sup>h</sup>The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-18--Distribution of participating households by  
amount of dependent-care deduction<sup>a</sup>

Amount of dependent care deduction <sup>b</sup>	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	8,962	97.4
\$1-50	43	0.5
51-100	66	0.7
101-150	47	0.5
151-200	54	0.6
200+	33	0.4
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0
Average dependent care deduction for claiming households = \$125		

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Subject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-19--Distribution of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction<sup>a</sup> and value of deduction claimed<sup>b</sup>

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly <sup>c</sup>	1,532	976	63.7	\$133	\$85
Children <sup>d</sup>	5,652	3,877	68.6	131	90
Disabled <sup>e</sup>	848	525	61.9	139	86
Earned income <sup>f</sup>	1,823	1,115	61.1	129	79
Public assistance <sup>g</sup>	4,606	3,407	74.0	133	98
Total <sup>h</sup>	9,204	6,221	67.6	133	90

<sup>a</sup>Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

<sup>b</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>g</sup>Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

<sup>h</sup>The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-20--Distribution of participating households by amount of excess shelter deduction<sup>a</sup>

Amount of excess shelter deduction <sup>b</sup>	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	2,983	32.4
\$1-50	982	10.7
51-100	1,137	12.4
101-150	1,139	12.4
151-185	605	6.6
186	1,939	21.1
187+	418	4.5
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0
Average excess shelter deduction for claiming households = \$133		

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-21--Distribution of participating households  
by the value of shelter deduction<sup>a</sup>

Value of shelter deduction <sup>b</sup>	All households		Households with elderly <sup>c</sup>		Households with children <sup>d</sup>		Households with disabled <sup>e</sup>		Households with earned income <sup>f</sup>		Households with public assistance <sup>g</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	2,983	32.4	555	36.3	1,775	31.4	323	38.1	708	38.9	1,199	26.0
Less than cap	3,869	42.0	715	46.7	2,291	40.5	371	43.7	690	37.9	2,043	44.4
Equal to cap	1,942	21.1	2	0.1	1,517	26.8	3	0.4	399	21.9	1,277	27.7
Less than max allot	1,351	14.7	2	0.1	1,167	20.6	3	0.4	310	17.0	1,000	21.7
Equal to max allot	591	6.4	0	0.0	350	6.2	0	0.0	89	4.9	277	6.0
Greater than cap	410	4.5	260	16.9	70	1.2	151	17.8	26	1.4	87	1.9
Total <sup>h</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	5,652	100.0	848	100.0	1,823	100.0	4,606	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Subject to a limit unless at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>g</sup>Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

<sup>h</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-22--Distribution of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed<sup>a</sup>

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly <sup>b</sup>	1,532	202	13.2	\$95	\$13
Children <sup>c</sup>	5,652	18	0.3	71	0
Disabled <sup>d</sup>	848	16	1.9	59	1
Earned income <sup>e</sup>	1,823	4	0.2	43	0
Public assistance <sup>f</sup>	4,606	11	0.2	63	0
Total <sup>g</sup>	9,204	218	2.4	92	2

<sup>a</sup>Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>f</sup>Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

<sup>g</sup>The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-23--Distribution of participating households by amount of medical deduction<sup>a</sup> for all households, households with elderly, and households with disabled

Amount of medical deduction <sup>a</sup>	All households		Households with elderly <sup>b</sup>		Households with disabled <sup>c</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	8,986	97.6	1,329	86.8	833	98.1
\$1-25	48	0.5	41	2.7	7	0.8
26-50	47	0.5	43	2.8	4	0.5
51-75	23	0.3	21	1.4	2	0.2
76-100	20	0.2	20	1.3	0	0.0
101-150	40	0.4	38	2.5	1	0.2
151-200	18	0.2	18	1.2	0	0.0
201-300	15	0.2	14	0.9	1	0.2
300+	7	0.1	7	0.5	0	0.0
Total <sup>d</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	848	100.0

Average medical deduction for claiming households = \$92

<sup>a</sup>Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-24--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit<sup>a</sup>

Amount of monthly benefit <sup>a</sup>	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$10 or less	411	4.5
11-25	474	5.2
26-50	595	6.5
51-75	629	6.8
76-100	698	7.6
101-150	1,917	20.8
151-200	1,673	18.2
201-300	1,813	19.7
301 or more	995	10.8
Total <sup>b</sup>	9,204	100.0
Average monthly food stamp benefit = \$162		

<sup>a</sup>The maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix F).

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-25--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average food stamp benefit
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
	(dollars)								
None	105	193	277	352	418	502	558	650	178
\$1-99	105	193	277	352	418	502	--	--	178
100-199	104	189	270	347	414	500	643	634	182
200-299	97	177	261	339	400	493	525	--	202
300-399	72	164	239	309	384	462	495	641	194
400-499	38	130	218	279	354	430	472	609	113
500-599	29	97	188	255	318	412	437	560	145
600-699	18	70	151	230	294	375	437	554	162
700-799	11	52	137	214	267	353	385	581	167
800-899	14	40	105	180	244	328	356	513	157
900-999	10	27	90	153	215	316	363	500	175
1000+	10	17	82	124	163	214	236	397	177
Average benefit per household	64	132	197	244	282	328	338	500	162

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-26--Distribution of households by FSP benefit  
as a percentage of maximum benefit and household poverty status

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line <sup>a</sup>	Percent of maximum benefit													
	All households		Minimum <sup>b</sup>		<25% <sup>c</sup>		25 - 50%		51 - 75%		76 - 99%		Maximum <sup>d</sup>	
	(000s)	Percent	(000s)	Percent	(000s)	Percent	(000s)	Percent	(000s)	Percent	(000s)	Percent	(000s)	Percent
All households <sup>e</sup>														
Total	9,204	100.0	410	100.0	776	100.0	1,589	100.0	2,127	100.0	2,463	100.0	1,839	100.0
No income	798	8.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	798	43.4
1 - 50	3,051	33.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	310	14.6	1,766	71.7	975	53.0
51 - 100	4,554	49.5	201	49.0	546	70.4	1,303	82.0	1,763	82.9	677	27.5	63	3.5
101 - 130	767	8.3	183	44.7	224	28.8	284	17.9	54	2.5	20	0.8	3	0.2
131+	34	0.4	26	6.3	6	0.8	2	0.1	0	0.0	--	--	0	0.0
Households with an elderly member <sup>f</sup>														
Total	1,532	100.0	244	100.0	424	100.0	331	100.0	301	100.0	125	100.0	105	100.0
No income	22	1.4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	20.6
1 - 50	87	5.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	5.5	24	19.0	46	43.7
51 - 100	1,181	77.1	130	53.3	361	85.0	297	89.6	270	89.6	89	71.0	34	32.6
101 - 130	227	14.8	102	41.9	61	14.3	34	10.2	15	4.9	12	9.9	3	3.0
131+	16	1.0	12	4.8	3	0.7	1	0.2	--	--	--	--	0	0.2
Households with earned income <sup>g</sup>														
Total	1,823	100.0	47	100.0	155	100.0	493	100.0	604	100.0	346	100.0	178	100.0
No income	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1 - 50	355	19.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	27	4.5	163	47.2	165	92.8
51 - 100	1,021	56.0	6	12.4	18	11.3	267	54.1	541	89.6	177	51.1	13	7.1
101 - 130	433	23.8	32	66.8	135	87.1	225	45.7	35	5.9	6	1.7	--	--
131	14	0.7	10	20.7	2	1.6	1	0.2	0	0.0	--	--	0	0.1
Households with children <sup>h</sup>														
Total	5,652	100.0	28	100.0	206	100.0	1,041	100.0	1,611	100.0	1,999	100.0	768	100.0
No income	299	5.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	299	39.0
1 - 50	2,356	41.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	281	17.4	1,611	80.6	464	60.5
51 - 100	2,556	45.2	0	1.2	46	22.6	822	79.0	1,301	80.8	382	19.1	4	0.5
101 - 130	435	7.7	26	90.9	157	76.0	218	21.0	29	1.8	6	0.3	--	--
131+	6	0.1	2	8.0	3	1.5	1	0.0	0	0.0	--	--	--	--
Households with AFDC income														
Total	3,760	100.0	10	100.0	79	100.0	603	100.0	1,047	100.0	1,641	100.0	380	100.0
No income	1	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	0.2
1 - 50	1,998	53.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	237	22.6	1,386	84.4	375	98.9
51 - 100	1,658	44.1	0	4.8	33	41.8	561	93.0	805	76.9	255	15.6	3	0.9
101 - 130	99	2.6	7	71.7	44	56.4	42	7.0	5	0.5	0	0.0	--	--
131+	4	0.1	2	23.5	1	1.8	--	--	0	0.0	--	--	--	--

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

<sup>c</sup>This category does not include households with the minimum benefit.

<sup>d</sup>The value of the maximum benefit varies depending on region (see appendix F).

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>g</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income and earned income tax credit.

<sup>h</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-27--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources for all households and households with elderly or disabled

Value of countable resources <sup>a</sup>	All households		Households with elderly <sup>b</sup>		Households with elderly or disabled <sup>c</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	7,072	76.8	931	60.8	1,572	66.0
\$1-500	1,666	18.1	401	26.2	551	23.2
501-1,000	252	2.7	103	6.7	130	5.5
1,001-1,500	118	1.3	54	3.5	74	3.1
1,501-1,750	38	0.4	18	1.2	20	0.8
1,751-2,000	24	0.3	5	0.3	13	0.5
2,001-3,000	18	0.2	15	1.0	16	0.7
Unknown	15	0.2	4	0.3	5	0.2
Total <sup>d</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	2,380	100.0

Average value of countable resources for all households = \$74

Average value of countable resources for elderly households = \$184

Average value of countable resources for elderly or disabled households = \$154

<sup>a</sup>Defined as cash on hand, assets which can be easily converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also include some nonliquid assets, although the family home, one or more family vehicles if necessary to transport disabled persons or to produce income, and business tools or property are not counted.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-28--Distribution of participating households  
by type of most recent action and expedited service

Most recent action	Number of households (thousands)			Percent		
	New entrants <sup>a</sup>	Other households	Total	New entrants	Other households	Total
Initial certification <sup>b</sup>	472	2,320	2,792	100.0	26.6	30.3
Expedited service <sup>c</sup>	135	213	348	28.7	2.4	3.8
No expedited service	337	2,106	2,443	71.4	24.1	26.5
Recertification	0	6,413	6,413	0.0	73.4	69.7
Expedited service	0	81	81	0.0	0.9	0.9
No expedited service	0	6,332	6,332	0.0	72.5	68.8
Total <sup>d</sup>	472	8,732	9,204	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Includes households newly certified in July or August, 1991.

<sup>b</sup>Includes both households certified for the first time within the currently certified period and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

<sup>c</sup>Households which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in July or August 1991.

<sup>d</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-29--Distribution of participating households  
by length of certification period

Months in certification period	All households		Households with elderly <sup>a</sup>		Households with earnings <sup>b</sup>		Households with children <sup>c</sup>		Households with disabled <sup>d</sup>		Households with AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	54	0.6	1	0.1	11	0.6	19	0.3	1	0.1	5	0.1
2	45	0.5	0	0.0	6	0.3	18	0.3	9	1.0	6	0.2
3	313	3.4	5	0.3	117	6.4	180	3.2	10	1.2	52	1.4
4	184	2.0	18	1.2	35	1.9	101	1.8	14	1.6	44	1.2
5	139	1.5	7	0.6	27	1.5	96	1.7	5	0.6	59	1.6
6	2,062	22.4	95	6.2	508	27.8	1,539	27.2	127	15.0	978	26.0
7	348	3.8	17	1.1	64	3.5	253	4.5	27	3.1	175	4.6
8	168	1.8	7	0.4	47	2.6	134	2.4	6	0.7	95	2.5
9	136	1.5	19	1.2	29	1.6	96	1.7	14	1.7	65	1.7
10	120	1.3	20	1.3	17	0.9	64	1.1	17	2.0	52	1.4
11	231	2.5	38	2.5	26	1.4	129	2.3	22	2.5	110	2.9
12	4,759	51.7	1,197	78.2	852	46.7	2,601	46.0	553	65.2	1,777	47.3
13+	626	6.8	100	6.5	81	4.4	414	7.3	45	5.3	339	9.0
Unknown	19	0.2	6	0.4	4	0.2	8	0.1	1	0.1	4	0.1
Total <sup>e</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	1,823	100.0	5,652	100.0	848	100.0	3,760	100.0
Average length of certification in months = 9.8												

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more

<sup>b</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-30--Distribution of participating households  
by household size

Household size	All households		Households with elderly <sup>a</sup>		Households with earnings <sup>b</sup>		Households with children <sup>c</sup>		Households with disabled <sup>d</sup>		Households with AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	2,943	32.0	1,086	70.9	225	12.3	94	1.7	455	53.6	39	1.0
2	2,035	22.1	306	20.0	320	17.5	1,455	25.7	114	13.4	1,176	31.3
3	1,839	20.0	64	4.2	439	24.1	1,733	30.7	96	11.3	1,150	30.6
4	1,254	13.6	38	2.5	389	21.3	1,241	22.0	81	9.6	741	19.7
5	632	6.9	21	1.4	246	13.5	629	11.1	55	6.5	375	10.0
6	267	2.9	8	0.5	119	6.5	267	4.7	26	3.1	144	3.8
7	122	1.3	0	0.0	44	2.4	122	2.2	8	1.0	65	1.7
8+	111	1.2	8	0.5	41	2.3	111	2.0	13	1.5	69	1.8
Total <sup>e</sup>	9,204	100.0	1,532	100.0	1,823	100.0	5,652	100.0	848	100.0	3,760	100.0
Average size	2.6		1.5		3.5		3.5		2.2		3.4	

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-31--Household composition of participating households

Household type	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Single adults		
Female	1,775	19.3
Male	1,168	12.7
Subtotal	2,943	32.0
Multiple adults without children		
Female head, no spouse	285	3.1
Male head, no spouse	53	0.6
Female head, spouse present	131	1.4
Male head, spouse present	233	2.5
Subtotal	702	7.6
Single adults with children <sup>a</sup>		
Female head	3,590	39.0
Male head	160	1.7
Subtotal	3,750	40.7
Multiple adults with children <sup>a</sup>		
Female head	1,089	11.8
Male head	553	6.0
Unknown	1	0.0
Subtotal	1,643	17.8
Children only <sup>b</sup>	165	1.8
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>b</sup>Household with all members age 17 or less.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-32--Distribution of participating households by household size,  
number of elderly, children, preschool age children,  
and school age children

	Household size								Number of households (thousands)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of elderly <sup>a</sup>									
0	1,856	1,729	1,776	1,217	610	259	122	103	7,672
1	1,086	154	56	33	16	6	0	8	1,360
2	**	152	8	5	5	2	--	--	172
Number of children <sup>b</sup>									
0	2,849	580	106	14	3	--	--	--	3,552
1	94	1,368	515	106	8	3	--	--	2,094
2	**	87	1,171	489	85	10	--	6	1,849
3	**	**	47	635	309	46	0	1	1,037
4	**	**	**	11	221	147	26	11	416
5+	**	**	**	**	7	60	96	93	256
Number of school age children <sup>c</sup>									
0	2,912	1,239	595	210	44	15	--	--	5,014
1	31	766	713	343	127	26	2	0	2,007
2	**	31	521	409	168	58	7	10	1,204
3	**	**	10	288	197	77	32	9	613
4	**	**	**	5	93	71	47	33	249
5+	**	**	**	**	2	21	34	60	117
Number of preschool age children <sup>d</sup>									
0	2,876	1,235	815	553	224	89	30	25	5,849
1	67	779	660	370	203	84	37	21	2,221
2	**	21	357	269	143	62	42	27	921
3	**	**	7	57	57	19	7	30	177
4	**	**	**	5	5	12	4	6	32
5+	**	**	**	**	--	2	--	1	3
Total <sup>e</sup>	2,943	2,035	1,839	1,255	632	267	122	111	9,204

<sup>a</sup>Persons age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Persons age 17 or less.

<sup>c</sup>Persons age 5 to 17.

<sup>d</sup>Persons less than age 5.

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

\*\* By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-33--Distribution of participants by age and sex

Age	Female		Male		Unknown		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
4 or less	2,411	10.0	2,330	9.6	0	0.0	4,741	19.6
5-17	3,912	16.2	3,972	16.4	1	0.0	7,885	32.6
18-35	4,561	18.9	1,737	7.2	0	0.0	6,298	26.1
36-59	2,278	9.4	1,247	5.2	--	--	3,525	14.6
60 or more	1,242	5.1	461	1.9	--	--	1,704	7.1
Unknown	4	0.0	1	0.0	--	--	5	0.0
Total <sup>a</sup>	14,408	59.6	9,748	40.4	1	0.0	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-34--Distribution of participants by Thrifty Food Plan  
sex-age groups and by household size

	All participants	Household size							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Children under age 12									
0-2 years	2,965	52	573	894	655	414	174	86	117
3-5 years	2,569	18	356	690	641	427	216	112	109
6-8 years	2,324	4	179	523	635	441	241	130	171
9-11 years	1,928	11	172	421	465	403	185	123	148
Males over age 12									
12-14 years	783	4	873	171	207	125	80	72	38
15-19 years	849	16	134	217	194	126	74	40	46
20-50 years	2,456	758	228	372	471	304	159	75	89
51+ years	734	339	240	66	34	22	20	3	9
Females over age 12									
12-14 years	756	1	86	153	216	128	69	43	60
15-19 years	1,115	49	221	284	239	119	87	40	77
20-50 years	5,880	561	1,394	1,605	1,178	620	276	126	121
51+ years	1,794	1,130	397	123	83	29	20	2	10
Unknown	5	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Total <sup>a</sup>	24,157	2,943	4,071	5,518	5,018	3,158	1,603	853	993

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-35--Age-related characteristics of participants

	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
A. Children <sup>a</sup>	12,626	52.2
1. Preschool age children <sup>b</sup>	4,741	19.6
2. School age children <sup>c</sup>	7,885	32.6
B. Nonelderly adults <sup>d</sup>	9,823	40.7
1. Parents	7,134	29.5
a. Single parents	3,748	15.5
Living with elderly	54	0.2
Disabled	107	0.4
Living with disabled	65	0.3
Other	3,522	14.6
b. Multiple adults	3,386	14.0
Living with elderly	72	0.3
Disabled	138	0.6
Living with disabled	212	0.9
Other	2,964	12.3
2. Nonparents	2,689	11.1
a. Single adults	1,976	8.2
Living with elderly	120	0.5
Disabled	454	1.9
Living with disabled	0	0.0
Other	1,402	5.8
b. Multiple adults	713	3.0
Living with elderly	49	0.2
Disabled	84	0.3
Living with disabled	70	0.3
Other	510	2.1
C. Elderly <sup>e</sup>	1,704	7.1
D. Unknown age	5	0.0
Total <sup>f</sup>	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Persons age 17 or less.<sup>b</sup>Persons less than age 5.<sup>c</sup>Persons age 5 to 17.<sup>d</sup>Persons age 18 to 59.<sup>e</sup>Persons age 60 or more.<sup>f</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-36--Distribution of participating households by  
race or ethnic origin of household head

Race/ethnic origin of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
White	4,250	46.2
Black	3,098	33.7
Hispanic	1,337	14.5
Asian	201	2.2
American Indian	104	1.1
Unknown	213	2.3
Total <sup>a</sup>	9,204	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-37--Distribution of participating households by  
selected characteristics of household members

Households with at least one:	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Alien <sup>a</sup>	145	1.6
Migrant	4	0.0
Military	1	0.0
Striker	2	0.0
Student <sup>b</sup>	536	5.8

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member who is accorded refugee status, granted political asylum, a nonimmigrant admitted for a specified period, granted a stay of deportation, a Mexican citizen with a 'border' card, or an undocumented alien.

<sup>b</sup>Household member age 18 years or older enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-38--Distribution of participating households by  
employment status of household head

Employment status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Employed full time <sup>a</sup>	678	7.4
Employed part time <sup>b</sup>	289	3.1
Self-employed	64	0.7
Farm employed	3	0.0
Not employed	6,358	69.1
Employed, other	178	1.9
Self-initiated education and training	211	2.3
Unemployed	875	9.5
Unknown	547	5.9
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours. This estimate is based on the employment status variable.

<sup>b</sup>Employed less than 30 hours per week.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-39--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head

Work registration status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of households
Required to register for work <sup>a</sup>	2,667	29.0
Exempt from work registration: <sup>b</sup>	6,374	69.3
Under or over required age <sup>c</sup>	1,319	14.3
Disabled	1,350	14.7
Pregnant <sup>d</sup>	66	0.7
Complying with work for another program	94	1.0
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult <sup>e</sup>	2,230	24.2
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	101	1.1
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	29	0.3
Employed full time <sup>f</sup>	769	8.4
Student <sup>g</sup>	47	0.5
Program not offered <sup>h</sup>	119	1.3
Other	252	2.7
Volunteers	48	0.5
Unknown	115	1.2
Total <sup>i</sup>	9,204	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Household heads required to register for work under the FSP or JOBS.

<sup>b</sup>Household heads may fall into one or more of the exemption categories, but they are counted only once, usually in the first exemption category they meet.

<sup>c</sup>Under the required age includes persons less than age 18. However, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year-olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt to register for work. Over the required age includes persons age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>This work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

<sup>e</sup>For the FSP, this exemption includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment; for the AFDC program, this exemption applies to caretakers of children under 3 (or age 1 at state option).

<sup>f</sup>Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours. This estimate is based on the work registration variable.

<sup>g</sup>Enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

<sup>h</sup>This work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

<sup>i</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-40--Distribution of participants by  
work registration status

Work registration status	All FSP participants		Nonelderly adult FSP participants <sup>a</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Required to register for work: <sup>b</sup>	3,628	15.0	3,494	35.6
FSP Participants Receiving E&T Services <sup>c</sup>	692	2.9	654	6.7
Participants with AFDC	556	2.3	528	5.4
Participants without AFDC				
FSP Participants Not Receiving E&T Services	1,228	5.1	1,210	12.3
FSP work registrants	1,152	4.8	1,102	11.2
AFDC work registrants				
Exempt from work registration: <sup>d</sup>				
Under or over required age <sup>e</sup>	13,051	54.0	75	0.8
Disabled	1,694	7.0	1,379	14.0
Pregnant <sup>f</sup>	88	0.4	85	0.9
Complying with work for another program	131	0.5	129	1.3
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult <sup>g</sup>	2,732	11.3	2,628	26.8
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	155	0.6	154	1.6
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	29	0.1	29	0.3
Employed full-time <sup>h</sup>	1,119	4.6	1,105	11.3
Student <sup>i</sup>	646	2.7	176	1.8
Program not offered <sup>j</sup>	312	1.3	129	1.3
Other	400	1.7	358	3.6
Volunteers	55	0.2	53	0.5
Unknown	117	0.5	28	0.3
Total <sup>k</sup>	24,157	100.0	9,823	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Ages 18 to 59.

<sup>b</sup>FSP participants required to register for work under the FSP or JOBS.

<sup>c</sup>E&T refers to employment and training services received under FSP E&T programs.

<sup>d</sup>FSP participants may fall into one or more of the exemption categories, but they are counted only once, usually in the first exemption category they meet.

<sup>e</sup>Under the required age includes persons less than age 18. However, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year-olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt to register for work. Over the required age includes persons age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>This work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

<sup>g</sup>For the FSP, this exemption includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted due to employment; for the AFDC program, this exemption applies to caretakers of children under 3 (or age 1 at State option).

<sup>h</sup>Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours. This estimate is based on the work registration variable.

<sup>i</sup>Enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

<sup>j</sup>This work registration exemption applies only to the AFDC program. States may exempt work registrants from participation in FSP E&T programs for this reason, but not from FSP work registration.

<sup>k</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table totals.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-41--Distribution of participating households, benefits, and participants  
for households with and without earned income

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants <sup>a</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Earned income <sup>b</sup>	1,823	19.8	\$330,013	22.2	6,370	26.4
No earned income	7,381	80.2	\$1,157,815	77.8	17,787	73.6
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0	\$1,487,828	100.0	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Number and percent of participants in households with and without earned income.

<sup>b</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-42--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without earned income

	Households with earned income <sup>a</sup>	Households with no earned income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	750	403
Net monthly income (dollars)	427	220
Total deductions <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	332	212
Countable resources (dollars)	103	67
Monthly benefit (dollars)	181	157
Household size (persons)	3.5	2.4
Certification period (months)	9.1	9.9

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-43--Distribution of participating households with and without earned income for selected characteristics

	Households with earned income <sup>a</sup>		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>b</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>b</sup>
Zero gross income	**	**	796	10.8
Zero net income	178	9.7	1,662	22.5
Minimum benefit <sup>c</sup>	47	2.6	363	4.9
Elderly <sup>d</sup>	66	3.6	1,465	19.9
Children <sup>e</sup>	1,482	81.3	4,170	56.5
School age children <sup>f</sup>	1,168	64.1	3,022	40.9
Preschool age children <sup>g</sup>	857	47.0	2,499	33.9
Household size				
1	225	12.3	2,718	36.8
2	320	17.5	1,716	23.2
3	440	24.1	1,400	19.0
4	389	21.3	865	11.7
5+	450	24.7	682	9.2

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>c</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>g</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

<sup>\*\*</sup>By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-44--Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants  
for households with and without elderly

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants <sup>a</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Elderly <sup>b</sup>	1,532	16.6	\$95,517	6.4	2,275	9.4
No elderly	7,672	83.4	\$1,392,311	93.6	21,882	90.6
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0	\$1,487,828	100.0	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Number and percent of participants in households with and without elderly persons.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-45--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly <sup>a</sup>	Households with no elderly
Gross monthly income (dollars)	499	466
Net monthly income (dollars)	290	256
Total deductions <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	217	240
Countable resources <sup>c</sup> (dollars)	184	52
Monthly benefit (dollars)	62	181
Household size (persons)	1.5	2.9
Certification period (months)	11.7	9.4

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those deductions to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>c</sup>The resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-46--Distribution of participating households with and without elderly for selected characteristics

	Households with elderly <sup>a</sup>		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>b</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>b</sup>
Zero gross income	22	1.4	775	10.1
Zero net income	105	6.9	1,734	22.6
Minimum benefit <sup>c</sup>	244	16.0	166	2.2
Children <sup>d</sup>	149	9.7	5,504	71.7
School age children <sup>e</sup>	132	8.6	4,058	52.9
Preschool age children <sup>f</sup>	47	3.0	3,309	43.1
Household size and sex of head				
1 female	888	58.0	876	11.4
1 male	196	12.8	950	12.4
1 unknown	3	0.2	31	0.4
2	307	20.0	1,729	22.5
3	64	4.2	1,776	23.1
4	38	2.5	1,217	15.9
5+	37	2.4	1,095	14.3

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>c</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-47--Distribution of participating households, benefits, and participants  
for households with and without disabled

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants <sup>a</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Disabled <sup>b</sup>	848	9.2	\$79,752	5.4	1,902	7.9
No disabled	8,356	90.8	\$1,408,077	94.6	22,255	92.1
Total <sup>c</sup>	9,204	100.0	\$1,487,828	100.0	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Number and percent of participants in households with and without disabled persons.

<sup>b</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-48--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without disabled

	Households with disabled <sup>a</sup>	Households with no disabled
Gross monthly income (dollars)	589	460
Net monthly income (dollars)	381	249
Total deductions <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	210	238
Countable resources <sup>c</sup> (dollars)	100	71
Monthly benefit (dollars)	94	169
Household size (persons)	2.2	2.7
Certification period (months)	10.6	9.7

<sup>a</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>c</sup>The resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-49--Distribution of participating households with and without disabled for selected characteristics

	Households with disabled <sup>a</sup>		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>b</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>b</sup>
Zero gross income	**	**	796	9.5
Zero net income	19	2.2	1,821	21.8
Minimum benefit <sup>c</sup>	90	10.6	320	3.8
Children <sup>d</sup>	328	38.7	5,324	63.7
School age children <sup>e</sup>	282	33.3	3,908	46.8
Preschool age children <sup>f</sup>	134	15.8	3,221	38.5
Household Size				
1	455	53.6	2,488	29.8
2	114	13.4	1,922	23.0
3	96	11.3	1,744	20.9
4	81	9.6	1,173	14.0
5+	103	12.1	1,029	12.3

<sup>a</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>b</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>c</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

\*\*By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-50--Distribution of participating households and benefits for households with children, school age children, preschool age children, and no children

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants <sup>a</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Children <sup>b</sup>	5,652	61.4	\$1,219,454	82.0	19,761	81.8
School age children <sup>c</sup>	4,190	45.5	953,623	64.1	15,837	65.6
Preschool age children <sup>d</sup>	3,355	36.5	754,601	50.7	12,075	50.0
No children	3,552	38.6	268,374	18.0	4,396	18.2
Total <sup>e</sup>	9,204	100.0	\$1,487,828	100.0	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Number and percent of participants in households with children, school-age children, preschool-age children, and without children.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

<sup>e</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-51--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with children, school age children, preschool age children and no children

	Households with children <sup>a</sup>	Households with school age children <sup>b</sup>	Households with preschool age children <sup>c</sup>	Households with no children
Gross monthly income (dollars)	545	582	541	356
Net monthly income (dollars)	315	348	315	175
Total deductions <sup>d</sup> (dollars)	247	249	244	218
Countable resources <sup>e</sup> (dollars)	51	52	48	110
Monthly benefit (dollars)	216	228	227	76
Household size (persons)	3.5	3.8	3.6	1.2
Certification period (months)	9.4	9.4	9.5	10.3

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

<sup>d</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>e</sup>The resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-52--Distribution of participating households with children, school age children, preschool age children, and no children for selected characteristics

	Households with children <sup>a</sup>		Households with school age children <sup>b</sup>		Households with preschool age children <sup>c</sup>		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>d</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>d</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>d</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>d</sup>
Zero gross income	298	5.3	188	4.5	199	5.9	498	14.0
Zero net income	768	13.6	504	12.0	478	14.2	1,072	30.2
Minimum benefit <sup>e</sup>	28	0.5	20	0.5	9	0.3	382	10.8
Elderly <sup>f</sup>	149	2.6	132	3.1	47	1.4	1,383	38.9
School age children <sup>b</sup>	4,190	74.1	4,190	100.0	1,734	51.7	0	0.0
Household size								
1	94	1.7	31	0.7	67	2.0	2,849	80.2
2	1,455	25.7	796	19.0	800	23.8	580	16.3
3	1,733	30.7	1,244	29.7	1,024	30.5	106	3.0
4	1,241	22.0	1,045	24.9	701	20.9	14	0.4
5+	1,129	20.0	1,074	25.6	763	22.7	3	0.1

<sup>a</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

<sup>d</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>e</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-53--Distribution of participating households, benefits and participants  
for households with and without AFDC income

Households with:	Households		Benefits		Participants <sup>a</sup>	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
AFDC income	3,760	40.8	\$808,714	54.4	12,615	52.2
No AFDC income	5,444	59.2	\$679,114	45.6	11,543	47.8
Total <sup>b</sup>	9,204	100.0	\$1,487,828	100.0	24,157	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Number and percent of participants in households with and without AFDC income.

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table A-54--Average value of selected characteristics for participating households with and without AFDC income

	Households with AFDC income	Households with no AFDC income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	497	455
Net monthly income (dollars)	282	247
Total deductions <sup>a</sup> (dollars)	221	246
Countable resources <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	31	103
Monthly benefit (dollars)	215	125
Household size (persons)	3.4	2.1
Certification period (months)	9.8	9.8

<sup>a</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>The resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-55--Distribution of participating households with and without AFDC income for selected characteristics

	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>a</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>a</sup>
Zero gross income	**	**	796	14.6
Zero net income	380	10.1	1,460	26.8
Minimum benefit <sup>b</sup>	10	0.3	400	7.3
Elderly <sup>c</sup>	87	2.3	1,445	26.5
Children <sup>d</sup>	3,610	96.0	2,042	37.5
School age children <sup>e</sup>	2,646	70.4	1,544	28.4
Preschool age children <sup>f</sup>	2,200	58.5	1,155	21.2
Household size				
1	39	1.0	2,903	53.3
2	1,176	31.3	859	15.8
3	1,150	30.6	690	12.7
4	741	19.7	513	9.4
5+	653	17.4	479	8.8

<sup>a</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>b</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

\*\*By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories; therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-56--Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1980 to summer 1991

	Gross monthly income (dollars)	Net monthly income (dollars)	Total deduction <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	Countable resources (dollars)	Monthly benefit (dollars)	Household size (persons)
August 1980 <sup>a</sup>	326	194	148	66	89	2.8
August 1981	349	196	169	62	103	2.7
August 1982	356	205	159	58	105	2.8
February 1983	376	208	175	73	127	2.9
August 1983	379	224	170	54	116	2.8
August 1984	390	229	177	58	114	2.8
Summer 1985	398	226	191	63	116	2.7
Summer 1986	417	232	203	71	120	2.7
Summer 1987	426	239	205	79	120	2.7
Winter 1988	434	243	213	82	130	2.7
Summer 1988	433	242	211	92	127	2.6
Summer 1989	443	247	216	84	129	2.6
Summer 1990	445	252	225	82	148	2.6
Summer 1991	472	261	236	74	162	2.6

<sup>a</sup>Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

<sup>b</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical and standard deductions (see Appendix E). Deductions are those to which households are entitled. Some deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Sources: August 1980 - Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix Table A-57--Comparison of percentage of participating households with selected characteristics for August 1980 - summer 1991

	Households with:						
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefit <sup>b</sup>	Elderly <sup>c</sup>	Children <sup>d</sup>	School age children <sup>e</sup>	Earnings
August 1980 <sup>a</sup>	8.1	16.6	6.9	22.6	59.9	44.4	18.5
August 1981	7.3	18.7	5.6	20.9	56.4	44.2	19.7
August 1982	7.8	18.9	7.5	19.6	58.2	49.2	17.6
February 1983	5.4	18.4	4.5	18.1	68.1	51.6	19.6
August 1983	6.6	16.4	7.5	20.2	63.8	47.3	19.3
August 1984	6.5	17.5	9.6	22.1	60.9	46.3	19.3
Summer 1985	6.8	19.8	8.5	21.4	59.2	47.4	19.6
Summer 1986	6.0	18.6	8.5	20.2	61.2	47.8	21.0
Summer 1987	6.0	17.7	8.9	20.5	61.2	47.8	20.2
Winter 1988	6.9	18.6	6.7	20.3	61.3	46.9	20.6
Summer 1988	6.6	18.3	7.6	19.1	60.9	46.6	20.0
Summer 1989	7.0	17.9	7.6	19.5	60.1	45.7	19.5
Summer 1990	7.4	19.0	5.5	17.5	61.0	46.2	19.0
Summer 1991	8.7	20.0	4.5	16.6	61.4	45.5	19.8

<sup>a</sup>Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

<sup>b</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two- person households.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>e</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Sources: August 1980 - Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

NA = not available.





## **APPENDIX B**

### **DETAILED TABLES OF FSP HOUSEHOLDS BY METROPOLITAN STATUS**



## CONTENTS OF APPENDIX B

Table	Page
B-1	Distribution of participating households by metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 101
B-2	Distribution of participating households by region and by metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 102
B-3	Distribution of participating households by State and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 103
B-4	Distribution of participating households by household composition and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 104
B-5	Distribution of participants by age, gender and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 105
B-6	Distribution of participants by race/ethnic origin and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 106
B-7	Average values of selected characteristics of participating households by metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 107
B-8	Distribution of participating households with selected characteristics by metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 108
B-9	Distribution of participating households by gross income as a percentage of poverty status and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 109
B-10	Distribution of participating households by income sources and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 110
B-11	Distribution of participating households claiming deductions and value of deduction claimed by metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 111
B-12	Distribution of participating households by shelter expense and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 112
B-13	Distribution of participating households by the value of the shelter deduction and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 113
B-14	Distribution of participating households by benefit as a percentage of the maximum benefit and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 114
B-15	Distribution of participating households by household size and metropolitan status, 1991 ..... 115



Appendix Table B-1--Distribution of participating households by metropolitan status, 1991

	Number (thousands)	Percent
Urban areas	6,555	74.0
Rural areas	2,233	25.2
Unknown	67	0.8
Total	8,855	100.0

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.



Table B-2--Distribution of participating households  
by region and by metropolitan status, 1991

	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Northeast	1,611	90.8	162	9.1	1,775	100.0
Midwest	1,579	74.8	509	24.1	2,112	100.0
South	2,143	62.3	1,261	36.7	3,440	100.0
West	1,223	80.0	300	19.6	1,528	100.0
Total	6,555	74.0	2,233	25.2	8,855	100.0

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Table B-3--Distribution of participating households by State and by metropolitan status, 1991

State	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		Households in unknown areas		All households	
	Number (000s)	Percent	Number (000s)	Percent	Number (000s)	Percent	Number (000s)	Percent
Alabama	110	59.1	76	40.9	0	0.0	186	100.0
Alaska	10	98.1	0	0.0	0	1.9	10	100.0
Arizona	91	66.3	45	33.0	1	0.7	138	100.0
Arkansas	29	31.3	64	68.3	0	0.5	94	100.0
California	772	95.6	35	4.4	0	0.0	807	100.0
Colorado	74	78.2	20	21.4	0	0.4	95	100.0
Connecticut	70	99.9	0	0.0	0	0.1	70	100.0
Delaware	8	53.2	7	46.8	0	0.0	15	100.0
District of Columbia	32	99.1	0	0.0	0	0.9	32	100.0
Florida	362	90.1	38	9.4	2	0.6	402	100.0
Georgia	132	54.1	105	43.1	7	2.8	244	100.0
Hawaii	24	68.4	11	31.3	0	0.3	35	100.0
Idaho	4	16.5	19	82.8	0	0.7	23	100.0
Illinois	394	85.6	63	13.8	3	0.6	460	100.0
Indiana	91	69.6	39	29.5	1	0.9	131	100.0
Iowa	35	48.6	37	51.1	0	0.4	72	100.0
Kansas	32	52.8	27	45.5	1	1.7	60	100.0
Kentucky	59	32.4	124	67.6	0	0.0	183	100.0
Louisiana	161	61.7	92	35.4	8	3.0	261	100.0
Maine	27	53.7	23	46.0	0	0.3	51	100.0
Maryland	119	91.8	11	8.1	0	0.1	130	100.0
Massachusetts	166	96.7	6	3.3	0	0.0	172	100.0
Michigan	321	78.7	71	17.4	16	3.9	408	100.0
Minnesota	80	67.3	38	31.9	1	0.8	119	100.0
Mississippi	40	21.5	147	78.5	0	0.0	187	100.0
Missouri	117	61.9	72	38.1	0	0.0	190	100.0
Montana	5	21.9	18	78.1	0	0.0	23	100.0
Nebraska	21	54.7	17	44.6	0	0.8	39	100.0
Nevada	26	92.0	2	8.0	0	0.0	28	100.0
New Hampshire	14	69.3	6	30.7	0	0.0	20	100.0
New Jersey	176	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	176	100.0
New Mexico	25	42.3	34	57.7	0	0.0	58	100.0
New York	729	94.0	46	6.0	0	0.0	776	100.0
North Carolina	86	43.0	114	56.7	1	0.3	201	100.0
North Dakota	5	34.3	10	65.7	0	0.0	16	100.0
Ohio	399	80.1	99	19.8	0	0.1	499	100.0
Oklahoma	56	48.5	60	51.5	0	0.1	116	100.0
Oregon	47	46.0	55	53.7	0	0.3	103	100.0
Pennsylvania	390	85.5	66	14.5	0	0.0	456	100.0
Rhode Island	32	94.7	0	0.0	2	5.3	34	100.0
South Carolina	50	42.9	66	57.1	0	0.0	116	100.0
South Dakota	6	32.1	12	66.9	0	0.9	18	100.0
Tennessee	155	65.0	83	34.9	0	0.1	239	100.0
Texas	598	79.0	145	19.1	14	1.9	757	100.0
Utah	22	56.4	17	43.6	0	0.0	40	100.0
Vermont	6	27.7	15	72.3	0	0.0	21	100.0
Virginia	111	65.0	57	33.3	3	1.7	171	100.0
Washington	119	75.4	35	22.3	4	2.3	158	100.0
West Virginia	32	30.5	73	69.5	0	0.0	105	100.0
Wisconsin	76	76.0	23	23.4	1	0.7	100	100.0
Wyoming	4	36.0	7	63.7	0	0.3	11	100.0
Total	6,555	74.0	2,233	25.2	67	0.8	8,855	100.0

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table B-4--Distribution of participating households by household composition and metropolitan status, 1991

Household composition	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Households with children <sup>a</sup>	4,048	61.7	1,264	56.5	5,349	59.4
Single-parent	2,893	44.1	706	31.6	3,624	40.9
Multiple-adult	939	14.3	539	24.1	1,489	16.8
Other	216	3.3	19	0.8	236	2.7
Households with elderly <sup>b</sup>	935	14.3	506	22.7	1,456	16.4
Living alone	719	11.0	348	15.6	1,077	12.2
Female	584	8.9	280	12.5	873	9.9
Male	135	2.1	67	3.0	204	2.3
Not living alone	216	3.3	159	7.1	379	4.3
Other households	1,635	24.9	509	22.8	2,161	24.4
Single female	630	9.6	172	7.7	810	9.1
Single male	706	10.8	175	7.8	887	10.0
Multiple adults	299	4.6	162	7.2	464	5.2
Total	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Household with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>b</sup>Household with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-5--Distribution of participants by age, gender and metropolitan status, 1991

Age and gender	Participants in urban areas		Participants in rural areas		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
4 or under						
Female	1,727	10.3	490	8.2	2,233	9.7
Male	1,699	10.1	518	8.7	2,232	9.7
Subtotal	3,426	20.4	1,008	16.8	4,464	19.4
5-11						
Female	1,765	10.5	561	9.4	2,344	10.2
Male	1,809	10.8	582	9.7	2,404	10.5
Subtotal	3,573	21.3	1,144	19.1	4,748	20.7
12-17						
Female	1,008	6.0	351	5.9	1,368	6.0
Male	985	5.9	366	6.1	1,365	5.9
Subtotal	1,993	11.9	716	12.0	2,733	11.9
18-35						
Female	3,300	19.6	1,074	17.9	4,405	19.2
Male	1,080	6.4	524	8.8	1,615	7.0
Subtotal	4,380	26.1	1,598	26.7	6,021	26.2
36-59						
Female	1,569	9.3	560	9.4	2,145	9.3
Male	835	5.0	379	6.3	1,222	5.3
Subtotal	2,403	14.3	939	15.7	3,367	14.7
60 and over						
Female	750	4.5	405	6.8	1,167	5.1
Male	273	1.6	172	2.9	450	2.0
Subtotal	1,023	6.1	577	9.6	1,617	7.0
Unknown age	3	0.0	2	0.0	11	0.0
Total <sup>a</sup>	16,810	100.0	5,985	100.0	22,963	100.0
Average age (years)	21.4		24.7		23.3	

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-6--Distribution of participants by  
race/ethnicity and metropolitan status, 1991

Race/ethnicity	Participants in urban areas		Participants in rural areas		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
White	5,929	35.3	3,659	61.1	9,674	42.1
Black	6,424	38.2	1,532	25.6	8,012	34.9
Hispanic	3,225	19.2	408	6.8	3,656	15.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	593	3.5	29	0.5	624	2.7
Native American	107	0.6	221	3.7	328	1.4
Unknown	532	3.2	136	2.3	669	2.9
Total <sup>a</sup>	16,809	100.0	5,985	100.0	22,963	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.



Appendix Table B-7--Average values of selected characteristics  
of participating households by metropolitan status, 1991

	Households in urban areas	Households in rural areas	All households
Gross monthly income (dollars)	458	482	464
Net monthly income (dollars)	244	281	253
Total deduction <sup>a</sup> (dollars)	239	226	235
Countable resources <sup>b</sup> (dollars)	60	130	78
Monthly benefit (dollars)	162	160	161
Household size (persons)	2.6	2.7	2.6
Certification period (months)	9.7	9.7	9.7

<sup>a</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>The resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-8--Distribution of participating households  
with selected characteristics by metropolitan status, 1991

Households with:	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>a</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>a</sup>	Number (thousands)	Percent <sup>a</sup>
Zero gross income	552	8.4	176	7.9	732	8.3
Zero net income	1,356	20.7	441	19.7	1,812	20.5
Minimum benefit <sup>b</sup>	252	3.8	108	4.8	363	4.1
Elderly member <sup>c</sup>	935	14.3	506	22.7	1,456	16.4
Disabled member <sup>d</sup>	542	8.3	248	11.1	794	9.0
Work registrant <sup>e</sup>	2,258	34.4	666	29.8	2,938	33.2
Children <sup>f</sup>	4,048	61.7	1,264	56.6	5,349	60.4
Preschool age children <sup>g</sup>	2,444	37.3	722	32.3	3,189	36.0
School age children <sup>h</sup>	2,971	45.3	962	43.1	3,964	44.8
Total	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

<sup>b</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Household heads are required to register for work under the FSP or JOBS.

<sup>f</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>g</sup>Households with at least one member less than age 5.

<sup>h</sup>Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-9--Distribution of participating households by gross income as a percentage of poverty and metropolitan status, 1991

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line <sup>a</sup>	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Zero income	552	8.4	176	7.9	732	8.3
1-25	461	7.0	214	9.6	681	7.7
26-50	1,769	27.0	484	21.7	2,270	25.6
51-75	1,557	23.8	475	21.3	2,048	23.1
76-100	1,751	26.7	661	29.6	2,428	27.4
101-130	437	6.7	212	9.5	656	7.4
131 or more	28	0.4	11	0.5	40	0.4
Total <sup>b</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average percentage of the poverty line		57.2		59.7		57.9

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the 1991 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see Appendixes C and D).

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-10--Distribution of participating households by income sources and metropolitan status, 1991

Income source	Households in urban areas			Households in rural areas			All households		
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Average <sup>a</sup> income from source	Number (thousands)	Percent	Average <sup>a</sup> income from source	Number (thousands)	Percent	Average <sup>a</sup> income from source
Earned income:									
Wages & Salaries	1,114	17.0	\$584	623	27.9	\$594	1,755	19.8	\$588
Self-employment	1,019	15.5	609	572	25.6	617	1,607	18.1	612
Earned Income Tax Credit	65	1.0	280	51	2.3	278	118	1.3	279
Other earned income	2	0.0	511	0	0.0	275	2	0.0	460
	37	0.6	297	12	0.5	248	49	0.6	285
Unearned income:									
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	5,188	79.1	433	1,603	71.8	410	6,838	77.2	427
General Assistance	2,884	44.0	414	682	30.5	303	3,588	40.5	393
Supplemental Security Income	796	12.1	234	114	5.1	180	915	10.3	227
Social Security	1,077	16.4	301	556	24.9	261	1,646	18.6	287
Unemployment Compensation	979	14.9	394	589	26.4	394	1,584	17.9	394
Other unearned income	136	2.1	485	75	3.4	427	213	2.4	464
	432	6.6	201	200	8.9	100	635	7.2	169
No income	552	8.4		176	7.9		732	8.3	
Total <sup>b</sup>	6,555	100.0		2,233	100.0		8,855	100.0	

<sup>a</sup>Average over households with income from specified source.

<sup>b</sup>The sum of individual income sources may not match total because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-11--Distribution of participating households claiming deductions and value of deduction claimed by metropolitan status<sup>a</sup>, 1991

	Households in urban areas			Households in rural areas			All households		
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Average amount over claiming households	Number (thousands)	Percent	Average amount over claiming households	Number (thousands)	Percent	Average amount over claiming households
Earned income <sup>b</sup>	1,113	17.0	\$117	623	27.9	\$117	1,753	19.8	\$117
Dependent-care <sup>c</sup>	177	2.7	129	64	2.9	112	244	2.8	123
Shelter <sup>d</sup>	4,616	70.4	137	1,322	59.2	119	5,982	67.6	131
Medical <sup>e</sup>	111	1.7	92	106	4.7	89	222	2.5	90
Total <sup>f</sup>	6,555	100.0		2,233	100.0		8,855	100.0	

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>c</sup>Subject to a limit of \$160 per dependent per month (see appendix E).

<sup>d</sup>Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

<sup>e</sup>Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

<sup>f</sup>Includes the standard deduction for all households (see appendix E). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.



Appendix Table B-12--Distribution of participating households  
by shelter expense and metropolitan status, 1991

Shelter expense	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
No expense or unknown	783	12.0	282	12.6	1,074	12.1
1-100	518	7.9	209	9.4	732	8.3
101-200	1,428	21.8	652	29.2	2,094	23.7
201-300	1,273	19.4	506	22.7	1,792	20.2
301-400	982	15.0	336	15.0	1,329	15.0
401-500	738	11.3	155	7.0	901	10.2
501-750	733	11.2	87	3.9	826	9.3
751-1,000	101	1.5	6	0.2	106	1.2
1,000 or more	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total <sup>a</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average shelter expense	\$271		\$216		\$257	

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-13--Distribution of participating households  
by the value of the shelter deduction by metropolitan status<sup>a</sup>, 1991

Value of shelter deduction <sup>b</sup>	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	1,939	29.6	911	40.8	2,873	32.4
Less than cap	2,725	41.6	965	43.2	3,715	42.0
Equal to cap	1,581	24.1	300	13.4	1,896	21.4
Less than maximum benefit	1,142	17.4	165	7.4	1,316	14.9
Equal to maximum benefit	439	6.7	136	6.1	580	6.5
Greater than cap	311	4.7	57	2.5	371	4.2
Total <sup>c</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>b</sup>Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix E).

<sup>c</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Table B-14--Distribution of participating households by  
benefits as a percentage of maximum benefit and metropolitan status, 1991

Benefit as a percent of maximum benefit <sup>a</sup>	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Minimum benefit	252	3.8	108	4.8	363	4.1
0 - 25	390	6.0	280	12.6	675	7.6
26 - 50	1,101	16.8	421	18.9	1,534	17.3
51 - 75	1,657	25.3	487	21.8	2,159	24.4
75 - 100	1,790	27.3	493	22.1	2,300	26.0
Maximum benefit	1,365	20.8	444	19.9	1,824	20.6
Total <sup>b</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average benefit as a percent of maximum	68.6		62.6		67.1	
Average monthly household benefit	\$162		\$160		\$161	
Average monthly benefit per person	\$63		\$60		\$62	

<sup>a</sup>The maximum benefit varies by area (see appendix F).

<sup>b</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.

Appendix Table B-15--Distribution of participating households by household size and metropolitan status, 1991

Household size	Households in urban areas		Households in rural areas		All households	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	2,140	32.7	701	31.4	2,866	32.4
2	1,530	23.3	492	22.0	2,035	23.0
3	1,277	19.5	407	18.2	1,696	19.2
4	862	13.1	322	14.4	1,194	13.5
5	418	6.4	171	7.7	593	6.7
6	178	2.7	82	3.7	263	3.0
7	84	1.3	33	1.5	118	1.3
8+	66	1.0	24	1.1	91	1.0
Total <sup>a</sup>	6,555	100.0	2,233	100.0	8,855	100.0
Average size	2.6		2.7		2.6	

<sup>a</sup>Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Note: A household is considered to be located in an urban area if the county in which its local food stamp agency is located is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the Census Bureau and a household is considered to be located in a rural area if its local food stamp agency is not in an MSA.





**APPENDIX C**  
**POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR 1991**



Appendix C--Poverty income guidelines for 1991<sup>a</sup>

Household Size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$6,280	\$7,840	\$7,230
2	8,420	10,520	9,690
3	10,560	13,200	12,150
4	12,700	15,880	14,610
5	14,840	18,560	17,070
6	16,980	21,240	19,530
7	19,120	23,920	21,990
8	21,260	26,000	24,450
Each additional member	+2,140	+2,680	+2,460

<sup>a</sup>Annual income for nonfarm families. These poverty guidelines are published by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Bureau of the Census establishes different poverty guidelines.

Source: 55 Federal Register 33, February 16, 1990.



**APPENDIX D**

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS AND NET MONTHLY  
FOOD STAMP INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS  
IN SUMMER 1991**





Appendix Table D-1--Maximum allowable gross monthly  
food stamp income eligibility standards in summer 1991

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$681	\$850	\$784
2	913	1,140	1050
3	1,144	1,430	1,317
4	1,376	1,721	1,583
5	1,608	2,011	1,850
6	1,840	2,301	2,116
7	2,072	2,592	2,383
8	2,304	2,882	2,649
Each additional member	+232	+291	+267

<sup>a</sup>The food stamp gross income standards in effect from  
October 1, 1990- September 30, 1991.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Appendix Table D-2--Maximum allowable net monthly  
food stamp income eligibility standards in summer 1991

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$524	\$654	\$603
2	702	877	808
3	880	1,100	1,013
4	1,059	1,324	1,218
5	1,237	1,547	1,428
6	1,415	1,770	1,628
7	1,594	1,994	1,833
8	1,772	2,217	2,038
Each additional member	+179	+224	+205

<sup>a</sup>The food stamp net income standards are equal to the Department of Health and Human Services poverty income guidelines (appendix C) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar. These standards are in effect from October 1, 1990 - September 30, 1991.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**APPENDIX E**

**VALUE OF STANDARD AND MAXIMUM DEPENDENT-CARE  
AND EXCESS SHELTER EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS IN THE  
CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND  
OUTLYING AREAS IN SUMMER 1991**





Appendix E--Value of standard and maximum dependent-care and excess shelter expense deductions in continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1991<sup>a</sup>

Area	Standard	Dependent Care <sup>b</sup>	Excess Shelter <sup>c</sup>
Continental United States	\$116	\$160	\$186
Alaska	199	160	323
Hawaii	165	160	265
Guam	233	160	225
Virgin Islands	103	160	137

<sup>a</sup>These standards are in effect from October 1, 1990 - September 30, 1991.

<sup>b</sup>The dependent-care deduction limit is \$160 per dependent.

<sup>c</sup>Limit on excess shelter expense deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.



**APPENDIX F**

**VALUE OF MAXIMUM BENEFIT IN  
THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND OUTLYING  
AREAS IN SUMMER 1991**



Appendix F--Value of maximum benefit in  
the continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1991<sup>a</sup>

Household Size	Continental U.S.	Alaska Urban	Alaska Rural I	Alaska Rural II	Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
1	\$105	\$137	\$175	\$214	\$172	\$155	\$135
2	193	252	322	392	316	285	249
3	277	361	461	561	452	409	356
4	352	459	586	713	574	519	453
5	418	545	696	847	682	616	538
6	502	655	835	1,016	819	740	645
7	555	723	923	1,123	905	818	713
8	634	827	1,055	1,284	1,034	935	815
Each additional member	+79	+103	+132	+161	+129	+177	+102

<sup>a</sup>The maximum benefit values are effective from October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991 and are based on 103 percent of the cost of Thrifty Food Plan in the preceding June for a reference family of four, rounded to the lowest dollar increment.

<sup>b</sup>Due to the unusual nature of Alaskan terrain and climate, areas outside major urban centers are less accessible to food distributors. Therefore, the value of the maximum benefit accounts for this added expense by splitting the Thrifty Food Plan into four separate components: Rural I, Rural II, Nenana, and Urban.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.





**APPENDIX G**  
**SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES**



## **The Sample**

The estimates in this report are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances designed to determine (1) if households are eligible to participate or are receiving the correct benefit amount and (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The IQCS is based on a national probability sample of approximately 70,000 participating food stamp households, and on a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations. The national sample of participating households collected in the IQCS is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Annual required State samples range from a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 2,400 reviews, depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month that is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.<sup>1</sup>

The estimates presented in appendix A of this report are derived from the summer 1991 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households. To ensure an adequate sample size, both July and August samples comprised the data for summer 1991. The summer 1990 and summer 1991 sample sizes were approximately the same. The estimates presented in appendix B of this report are derived from the samples for all months of the fiscal year 1991 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households.

## **Target Universe**

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Participating households in Guam and the Virgin Islands were also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to review are not included. Specifically, the universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants (1) died or moved outside the State; (2) received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS; (3) were under investigation for FSP fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings) and/or were appealing a notice of adverse action when the review date fell within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing; or (4) received restored benefits in accordance with the State manual, but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the universe each month is the active food stamp household as specified in FNS regulations.

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<sup>1</sup>Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample sizes are not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload sizes.

## Weighting

The estimates for summer 1991 in this report are based on a total of 10,602 valid observations and the estimates for fiscal year 1991 are based on a total of 63,692 valid observations.<sup>2</sup> The sample findings have been weighted according to the number of participating households as reported to FNS. The case record sample weights of several States were adjusted to reflect the disproportionately stratified quality control sample designs in those States.

## Income Decision Rule

Several household-level income and deduction variables are both reported and can be calculated by summing across person-level variables. Gross income is the key variable, since the earned income and excess shelter expense deductions and net income depend on gross income, and benefit levels depend on net income. The data on which this report is based were edited to achieve internal consistency. The mean values for selected variables broken out by their calculated and reported values are presented in appendix table G-1 for summer 1991 and in appendix table G-2 for fiscal year 1991.

## Comparison to Participation Data

The following data present a comparison of the quality control sample-based estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands):

Average monthly value	Summer 1991 Program Data	Summer 1991 IQCS Sample	Fiscal Year 1991 Program Data	Fiscal Year 1991 IQCS Sample
Number of households	9,204,314	9,204,022	8,855,113	8,855,065
Number of participants	23,364,394	24,157,376	22,568,732	22,962,849
Value of benefits	\$1,482,747,061	\$1,487,828,265	\$1,436,315,391	\$1,430,000,709
Average household size	2.54	2.62	2.55	2.59
Average bonus per person	\$63.46	\$61.59	\$63.64	\$62.27

## Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample is based on one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1990 - September 1991. However, since summer caseloads are smaller than caseloads during other times of the year, this approach probably results in a slight overestimation of the total expected number, and thus in a slight underestimation of the completion rate, for the

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<sup>2</sup>These observations do not include cases from Guam and the Virgin Islands.

summer 1991 sample. The number of cases selected subject to review, the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates for summer 1991 and fiscal year 1991 are as follows:

	Summer 1991 IQCS Sample	Fiscal Year 1991 IQCS Sample
Number of cases selected subject to review	11,818	70,606
Number of cases completed	10,720	64,395
Estimated completion rate	90.7%	91.2%

Even though possibly an underestimate, these completion rates compare favorably with other surveys of this nature.

Appendix Table G-1--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households, summer 1991

	All households	Households with			
		Earnings <sup>a</sup>	Elderly <sup>b</sup>	Children <sup>c</sup>	Disabled <sup>d</sup>
(AVERAGE DOLLAR AMOUNTS)					
Gross income					
Calculated	472	750	499	545	589
Reported	474	755	499	547	598
Net income					
Calculated	261	427	290	315	381
Reported	254	419	278	309	365
Total deduction <sup>e</sup>					
Calculated	236	332	217	247	210
Reported	234	325	217	244	210
Benefit					
Calculated	162	181	62	216	94
Reported	161	180	64	215	97
(PERCENTAGES)					
Percent with zero gross income					
Calculated	8.7	0.0	1.4	5.3	0.0
Reported	8.2	0.3	1.4	4.5	0.0
Percent with zero net income					
Calculated	20.0	9.7	6.9	13.6	2.2
Reported	20.6	10.9	7.0	14.2	3.4
Percent with minimum benefit <sup>f</sup>					
Calculated	4.5	2.6	16.0	0.5	10.6
Reported	3.9	2.2	14.6	0.4	9.6

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>f</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table G-2--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households, 1991

	All households	Households with			
		Earnings <sup>a</sup>	Elderly <sup>b</sup>	Children <sup>c</sup>	Disabled <sup>d</sup>
(AVERAGE DOLLAR AMOUNTS)					
Gross income					
Calculated	464	725	487	538	573
Reported	465	727	487	541	575
Net income					
Calculated	253	405	280	309	364
Reported	247	398	269	303	349
Total deduction <sup>e</sup>					
Calculated	235	332	217	247	214
Reported	234	324	217	244	214
Benefit					
Calculated	161	182	61	216	103
Reported	161	181	63	215	106
(PERCENTAGES)					
Percent with zero gross income					
Calculated	8.3	0.0	1.4	5.0	0.0
Reported	8.0	0.1	1.4	4.5	0.0
Percent with zero net income					
Calculated	20.5	11.6	7.5	13.7	4.2
Reported	21.2	12.1	8.1	14.4	5.1
Percent with minimum benefit <sup>f</sup>					
Calculated	4.1	2.2	15.7	0.4	8.3
Reported	3.6	2.1	14.1	0.3	7.3

<sup>a</sup>Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

<sup>b</sup>Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

<sup>c</sup>Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

<sup>d</sup>Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

<sup>e</sup>Includes earned income, dependent-care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix E). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

<sup>f</sup>Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

Source: 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



**APPENDIX H**  
**SAMPLING ERROR OF ESTIMATES**



## TABLES IN APPENDIX H

Table		Page
H-1	Standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households, summer 1991 .....	149
H-2	Naive estimate standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households, summer 1991 .....	150
H-3	Standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1991 .....	151
H-4	Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1991 .....	152
H-5	Adjustment factors for standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1991 .....	153
H-6	Standard errors of estimated means, summer 1991 .....	154
H-7	Range of standard errors of mean amounts expressed as a percent of the mean amount, summer 1991 .....	155





## Sampling Error

The estimates of the characteristics of food stamp households contained in this report are based on a sample of households. The summer 1991 estimates are based on a summer sample (an average of July and August). Since the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to statistical sampling error.

One important indicator of the magnitude of the possible sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values that would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn. The magnitude of the standard errors depends on (1) the degree of variation in the variable within the overall population from which the sample has been drawn; (2) the design of the sample, including such issues as stratification and sampling probabilities; and (3) the size of the sample on which the estimate is based.

In this appendix, we present estimates of the standard errors associated with key variables for the statistics, and we outline methods for estimating the standard errors of other statistics for which standard errors have not been directly calculated.

### Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals

The estimates presented in appendix A are based on the summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample. For these estimates, the standard error of estimates of proportions,  $s_p$ , based on simple random samples is given by the formula:

$$(1) s_p = \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)} ,$$

where  $p$  is the sample estimate of the proportion and  $n$  is the sample size.

The standard error of estimated numbers of households,  $s_N$ , based on simple random samples is given by the following formula:

$$(2) s_N = N \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)} ,$$

where  $N$  is the number of households in the population.

These formulas for the standard errors of the estimates based on simple random samples do not necessarily provide an accurate estimate for more complex stratified samples such as the stratified sample design used for this study. In this appendix, estimates produced by the formulas above are referred to as "naive standard errors." More accurate standard errors are provided for key estimates by directly calculating their standard errors through a replicate method as discussed below.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Standard errors have been estimated using the replicate sample method described in Leslie Kish, *Survey Sampling*, 1965, pp. 127-128. Under the replicate sample method, the sample is divided into random subsamples, and the variance of the mean of any given variable in the full sample is based on the variance of the means for that variable across the subsamples. In implementing this approach, the samples used in the estimation work were divided into 40 replicate subsamples.

Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals for estimated variables. A confidence interval is a range of values that will contain the true value of an estimated characteristic with a known probability. For instance, a 95-percent confidence interval extends approximately two standard errors above and below the estimated value for a characteristic, and 95-percent of all confidence intervals will contain the true value.

The following discussion presents estimated standard errors for a selected set of key estimates using the replication method. It then presents a simple method for approximating standard errors of estimated numbers of households and percentages for the national caseload when individual standard errors have not been estimated.

### **Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Households**

The standard errors for selected estimates of FSP households in summer 1991 are shown in table A-46. These standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent confidence interval for the estimated number of households with a particular characteristic. For example, the estimate in table H-1 of the number of elderly households with zero net income has a standard error of 15,000, and therefore, the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 75,000 to 134,000, around the point estimate of 105,000.<sup>2</sup> With such a confidence interval, 95-percent of all intervals constructed in this fashion will contain the true value of the variable.

For standard errors not shown in table H-1, the approximate standard error,  $S_E$ , of an estimated number of households for summer 1991 can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(3) \quad S_E = s_N \times d \times f,$$

where  $s_N$  is the naive standard error from either equation (2) above or from table H-2,  $d$  is the average design effect of 1.7, and  $f$  is an adjustment factor from table H-5 that potentially can improve the approximation by partially accounting for the variation in design effects across subgroups of the sample.<sup>3</sup> The average design effect is the average increase in the size of the standard error estimated by the replicate method over that of the naive standard error appropriate for a simple random sample. Use of the adjustment factor  $f$  will generally improve the approximation when the base of the estimated percentage or number and the characteristic used in defining the percentage or total are quite similar to the bases and characteristics shown in table H-5. In other cases,  $f$  should be ignored by setting it to 1.0.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Calculated by rounding to the nearest thousand;  $(105 - (2 \times 15)) = 75$  and  $(104 + (2 \times 15)) = 134$ .

<sup>3</sup>The average design effect reflects the loss of precision resulting from the existence of different sampling rates in different strata of the IQCS sample. It is the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells of table H-5.

<sup>4</sup>Table H-5 presents the adjustment factors for various categories of households defined by household composition and income receipt. For each household category, the adjustment factor "f" is the ratio of the design effects for the sample of that category of households to the design effects for the entire sample.



For example, to obtain the approximate standard error of the number of households containing an elderly person with zero net income, the first step is to obtain the size of the estimate. As shown in appendix table A-46, 105,000 elderly households have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from either equation (2) or less accurately from table H-2. Using equation (2), the value is 9,200 households.<sup>5</sup> Multiplying 9.2 times the design factor  $d$  of 1.7 produces the first approximation of 15.64. In this case, the same base for the number of households (i.e., with elderly) and the same characteristic (i.e., zero net income) are defined in table H-5. Consequently, using the  $f$  factor from table H-5 should improve the approximation. Multiplying the first approximation of 15.64 times the adjustment factor of 1.276 from table H-5 produces a second approximation of 19.96. In this case, the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table H-1, 15,460. The second approximation happened to be overestimated in this case, but is closer than the naive standard error of 9.2 thousand (the naive standard error does not account for sample design effects). However, it is not an improvement over the estimate based only on the average design effect (15.64).

### Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

The standard errors for selected estimated percentages of FSP households in summer 1991 are shown in table H-3. As discussed above, these standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent interval for the estimated percentage. For example, the estimate in table A-52 of the percentage of households with children with zero gross income has a standard error of .41, and therefore, the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 4.48 percent to 6.12 percent--around the point estimate of 5.3 percent.<sup>6</sup>

For estimated percentages in summer 1991 not shown in table H-3, the approximate standard error,  $S_E$ , can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(4) \quad S_E = s_p \times d \times f$$

where  $s_p$  is the naive standard error from equation (1) above or less accurately from table H-4,  $d$  is the average design effect of 1.7, and  $f$  is an adjustment factor from table H-5 to improve the approximation as discussed above.

For example, to obtain an approximate estimate of the standard error for the percentage of households with children who have zero net income, the first step is to obtain the estimated percentage and the size of the base for the estimated percentage. From appendix table A-50, we see that 5,652,000 households have children. From appendix table A-52, we see that 13.6 percent

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<sup>5</sup>Calculated as:

$$1,532 \times \sqrt{((105/1,532) \times (1 - (105/1,532))/1,753)} = 9.2,$$

where 1,532 is the estimated number of elderly households, 105 is the estimated number of households with elderly with zero gross incomes, and 1,753 is the sample size of elderly households. Table H-4 is accurate only for the full sample size of all food stamp households.

<sup>6</sup>Calculated by rounding to the nearest tenth of a percent as:  $(5.3 - (2 \times .41)) = 4.48$ , and  $(5.3 + (2 \times .41)) = 6.12$ .

of households with children have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from equation (1). Using equation (1), the square root of  $(.136 \times .864)/(6,568-1) = .423$  percent. Multiplying the naive standard error of .423 times the average design factor of 1.3 times the specific adjustment factor of 1.004 from table H-5 produces an adjusted approximation of .552. In this case, the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table H-3, .555. Thus, this approximation is closer to the actual estimated standard error.

### **Standard Errors of Estimated Means**

The standard errors for selected estimated means in summer 1991 are provided in table H-6. These standard errors can be used to compute a 95-percent confidence interval. For example, the standard error for average gross income for all FSP households in summer 1991 as shown in table H-6 is 4.10, and its mean is \$472. Therefore, a 95-percent confidence interval extends between approximately \$464 and \$480.<sup>7</sup>

Generalized approximation methods such as those used above work well for standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages, since the standard errors depend only on the sample size, the estimated proportion, and the design effects. Generalized methods are less appropriate for standard errors of means, since the standard error depends on the variance as well as the sample size and design effects. However, a rough approximation of the likely magnitude of standard errors of means not included in table H-6 can be obtained from table H-7, which shows the standard error as a percent of the mean value for all FSP households and successively smaller subsets of households. In this table, the approximate standard errors as a percent of the mean value are shown as the average across the 12 variables from table H-6. The lowest and highest values across the 12 variables for each subset of households are also shown to give an indication of the quality of the approximation provided by the standard error expressed as a percent of the mean value. These standard errors include the design effects as they were estimated using a replication method.

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<sup>7</sup>Rounding to the nearest dollar,  $(472 - (2 \times 4.10)) = 464$  and  $(472 + (2 \times 4.1)) = 480$ .

Appendix Table H-1--Standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households, summer 1991<sup>a</sup>  
(thousands)

Base of estimated number	Households with							Sample size
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	
All FSP households	33.39	40.78	25.95	47.78	44.28	58.81	49.71	10,602
With elderly	6.43	15.46	14.67	9.67	NA	13.31	12.11	1,753
Without elderly	31.48	38.18	17.29	47.62	NA	48.09	44.32	8,849
With children	23.24	31.39	8.63	36.16	14.56	NA	39.88	6,568
With school children	18.93	30.33	6.25	35.06	13.48	NA	NA	4,810
Without children	24.63	29.16	22.26	23.29	32.60	NA	NA	4,034
With earnings	NA	16.13	9.29	0.00	10.88	20.51	23.17	2,262
With disabled	NA	3.79	12.66	9.65	NA	15.61	15.19	975

<sup>a</sup>Standard errors computed as number of households in estimated base times the standard errors of the estimated percentages from Table H-3. Standard errors in table H-3 were estimated with the replication method.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

NA = not applicable.

Appendix Table H-2--Naive estimate standard errors of  
estimated numbers of food stamp households, summer 1991  
(thousands)

Size of estimate	Naive estimate of standard error <sup>a</sup>
10	2.94
50	6.57
100	9.27
250	14.53
500	20.26
1,000	27.82
2,000	33.51
3,000	37.45
4,000	38.65
5,000	44.62
6,000	42.58
6,500	40.71

<sup>a</sup>Applicable when the base of the estimated number is  
all food stamp households.

$$\text{Naive standard error} = N \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)} ,$$

where: N = the number of FSP households (9,204  
thousand)

p = the size of the estimate divided by N

n = the size of sample (10,602)

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Appendix Table H-3--Standard errors of estimated percentages  
of food stamp households, summer 1991<sup>a</sup>

Base of estimated percentage	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Households with			Elderly	Children	School-age children	Disabled
			Minimum benefits	Earned income					
All FSP households	0.363	0.443	0.282	0.519	0.481	0.639	0.540	0.409	
With elderly	0.420	1.009	0.958	0.631	NA	0.869	0.791	NA	
Without elderly	0.410	0.498	0.225	0.621	NA	0.627	0.578	0.497	
With children	0.411	0.555	0.153	0.640	0.258	NA	0.706	0.378	
With school children	0.452	0.724	0.149	0.837	0.322	NA	NA	0.442	
Without children	0.694	0.821	0.627	0.656	0.918	NA	NA	0.740	
With earnings	NA	0.885	0.509	NA	0.597	1.125	1.271	0.533	
With disabled	NA	0.447	1.493	1.138	NA	1.840	1.791	NA	

<sup>a</sup>Standard errors were estimated using the replication method.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

NA = not applicable.

Appendix Table H-4--Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1991<sup>a</sup>

Base of est. percentage	Estimated percentage			
	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
10	6.42	8.84	12.76	14.73
50	2.87	3.95	5.71	6.59
100	2.03	2.80	4.03	4.66
250	1.28	1.77	2.55	2.95
500	0.91	1.25	1.80	2.08
1,000	0.64	0.88	1.28	1.47
2,000	0.45	0.62	0.90	1.04
3,000	0.37	0.51	0.74	0.85
4,000	0.32	0.44	0.64	0.74
5,000	0.29	0.40	0.57	0.66
6,000	0.26	0.36	0.52	0.60
7,000	0.24	0.33	0.48	0.56

<sup>a</sup>Applicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error =  $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$ , where p equals estimated percentage divided by 100, and n is the sample size of 10,602 for all food stamp households.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table H-5--Adjustment factors for standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households, summer 1991<sup>a</sup>

Base of estimated number	Households with						
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children
All FSP households	1.015	0.872	1.075	1.024	1.016	1.033	0.853
With elderly	1.136	1.276	0.837	0.991	NA	0.940	0.901
Without elderly	0.979	0.855	1.114	1.061	NA	1.000	0.832
With children	1.139	1.004	1.344	0.900	0.996	NA	0.998
With school children	1.157	1.179	1.153	0.988	0.976	NA	NA
Without children	0.726	0.650	0.982	1.081	0.914	NA	NA
With earnings	NA	1.082	1.168	NA	1.159	1.050	0.967
With disabled	NA	0.727	1.157	0.927	NA	0.902	0.907
Average factor	1.025	0.956	1.104	0.996	1.012	0.985	0.910
							1.024
							1.001

<sup>a</sup>The adjustment factors are defined A/B; where A = the ratio of the standard error computed by the replication method to the naive standard error for the specific cell of the table, and B = the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

NA = not applicable.

Appendix Table H-6--Standard errors of estimated means, summer 1991<sup>a</sup>

Base of estimated mean	Households with											
	Gross income	Net income	Benefits	All deductions	Total resources	Household size	Certification period	Earnings <sup>b</sup>	AFDC & GA <sup>b</sup>	SSI <sup>b</sup>	Dependent care cost <sup>b</sup>	Shelter deduction <sup>b</sup>
All FSP households	4.097	3.262	1.449	1.431	5.314	0.022	0.037	9.255	3.825	4.669	4.934	1.450
With elderly	5.759	5.032	2.130	3.394	13.729	0.032	0.096	42.284	15.001	7.011	5.117	3.791
Without elderly	4.627	3.633	1.459	1.564	6.091	0.024	0.038	9.349	3.728	5.753	4.989	1.469
With children	6.462	5.594	1.399	1.818	7.810	0.026	0.049	10.259	4.455	10.844	4.934	1.852
With school children	7.648	6.524	1.998	2.047	10.334	0.035	0.059	13.082	6.018	11.020	6.703	2.077
Without children	4.070	3.223	0.846	2.036	6.807	0.011	0.072	15.500	6.271	5.554	<sup>c</sup>	2.167
With earnings	8.983	7.997	3.188	3.244	15.912	0.049	0.087	9.256	13.110	19.004	4.804	2.929
With disabled	8.565	10.024	3.229	4.348	13.235	0.060	0.138	41.282	15.773	5.753	6.318	5.829

<sup>a</sup>Standard errors were estimated using the replication method.

<sup>b</sup>For households with a nonzero amount.

<sup>c</sup>Sample size too small to make an estimate.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table H-7--Range of standard errors of mean amounts expressed as a percentage of the mean amount<sup>a</sup>, summer 1991

Number of households in base of mean (thousands)	Standard error as percent of mean amount		
	Average <sup>b</sup>	Lowest <sup>c</sup>	Highest <sup>d</sup>
9,204 (all FSP households)	1.69	0.38	6.20
5,652 (households with children)	2.34	0.54	11.46
1,823 (households with earnings)	3.28	0.91	13.09
848 (households with disabled)	4.62	1.33	13.29

<sup>a</sup>Standard errors were from table H-6 and mean amounts from applicable text tables.

<sup>b</sup>Average standard error across all 12 variables in table H-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

<sup>c</sup>Lowest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table H-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

<sup>d</sup>Highest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table H-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

Source: Summer 1991 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.





**APPENDIX I**  
**DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT**



# Appendix I--Data collection instrument

Form Approved  
OMB No. 0960-0313

(Form Optional State Use)

## INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

**PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK NOTICE ACT:** This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 275.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.900 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of State performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine State compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

### I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number	1a. Case Number	2. State and Local Agency Codes	3. Sample Month and Year	4. Status	5. Review Type
AFDC/ADULT	MA	AFDC/ADULT	FS		
6. Decision	7. Review Findings	8. Amount of Error			
AFDC/ADULT	FS	AFDC/ADULT	FS		

### II. CASE INFORMATION

9. Most Recent Counting	10. Most Recent Action	11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Members	13. Liquid Assets	14. Real Property (Excl. Home)	15. Countable Vehicle Assets	16. Other Non-Liquid Assets
ADULT							
AFDC							
FS							
MA							

### CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

17. Monthly Payment Standard	18. Sample Month's Payment	19. Restricted Payment Status	20. Unborn Child	21. Shelter Arrangement	22. Gross Countable Income	23. Work-Related Expenses	24. Child or Dependent Care Disregard	25. First \$30 and 1/3 of Remainder	26. Net Countable Income

### CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification	28. Month in Count Period	29. Caution Amount	30. Excess Service	31. Auth. Prep.	32. Gross Countable Income	33. Earned Income Deduction	34. Medical Cost	35. Shelter Cost	36. Dependent Care Cost	37. Net Countable Income

### CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

38. Medical Expenses Used to Meet Specimen Amount	39. Gross Countable Income	40. Net Countable Income

IV. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INCOME

[illegible]

REVIEW NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (For Optional Super User) \_\_\_\_\_

## V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes	
Agency	OC
<div></div>	<div>-</div>

63. Initial Case Expenditure Status	
<div></div>	<div>-</div>

64. Initial Case Liability Error	
<div></div>	<div>- - - - -</div>

65. Amount of Excess Resources	
<div></div>	<div>- - - - -</div>

## VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

[illegible]

	Counted	Not Counted
% Ineligible Persons with Federal Matching AFDC Overpayment	1	1





## **APPENDIX J**

### **PREVIOUS REPORTS IN THIS SERIES**



- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1990.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1992.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1989.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1991.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1988.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Winter 1988.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1987.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1986.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1988.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1985.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1987.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1984.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1983.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1982.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1981.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1984.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1980.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation; 1981.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, November 1979.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation; 1981.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1978.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1980.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1976.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1977.
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1975.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; 1976.







